

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL



standard contents

every issue does not necessarily contain all these contents, but they are the regular features which continually recur.

NEWS and COMMENT

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Wanted and Vacant

No. 2987]

[Vol. 115

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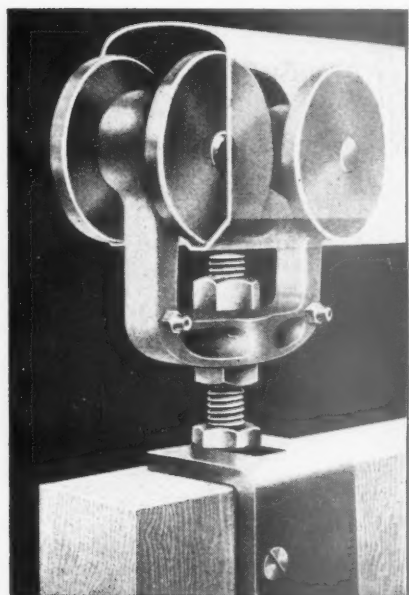
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Registered as a Newspaper.

★ A glossary of abbreviations of Government Departments and Societies and Committees of all kinds, together with their full address and telephone numbers. The glossary is published in two parts—A to Ie one week, Ie to Z the next. In all cases where the town is not mentioned the word LONDON is implicit in the address.

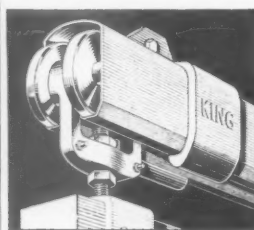
IGE	Institution of Gas Engineers	17, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.	Sloane 8266
IHVE	Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.	75, Eaton Place, S.W.1.	Sloane 3158/1601
IIBD	Incorporated Institute of British Decorators.	Drayton House, Gordon Street, W.C.1.	Euston 2450
ILA	Institute of Landscape Architects.	12, Gower Street, W.C.1.	Museum 1783
I of Arb.	Institute of Arbitrators.	35/37, Hastings House, 10, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 4071
IOB	Institute of Builders.	48, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 7197/5176
IR	Institute of Refrigeration.	Dalmeny House, Monument Street, E.C.3.	Avenue 6851
IRA	Institute of Registered Architects.	47, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 6172
ISE	Institution of Structural Engineers.	11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.	Sloane 7128
IWA	Inland Waterways Association.	11, Gower Street, W.C.1.	Museum 9200
LIDC	Lead Industries Development Council.	Eagle House, Jermyn Street, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7264/4175
LMBA	London Master Builders' Association.	47, Bedford Square, W.C.1.	Museum 3891
MARS	Modern Architectural Research Group (English Branch of CIAM).	Gontran Goulden, Building Centre, 26, Store Street, W.C.1.	Secretary : Museum 5400
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.	55, Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3400
MOE	Ministry of Education	Curzon Street House, Curzon Street, W.1.	Mayfair 9400
MOH	Ministry of Health.	23, Saville Row, W.1.	Regent 8411
MOHLG	Ministry of Housing and Local Government.	Whitehall, S.W.1.	Whitehall 4300
MOLNS	Ministry of Labour and National Service.	8, St. James' Square, S.W.1.	Whitehall 6200
MOS	Ministry of Supply.	Shell Mex House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.	Gerrard 6933
MOT	Ministry of Transport.	Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W.1.	Mayfair 9494
MOW	Ministry of Works.	Lambeth Bridge House, S.E.1.	Reliance 7611
NAMMC	Natural Asphalt Mine-Owners and Manufacturers Council.	94-98, Petty France, S.W.1.	Abbey 1010
NAS	National Association of Shopfitters.	9, Victoria Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 4813
NBR	National Buildings Record.	37, Onslow Gardens, S.W.7.	Kensington 8161
NCBMP	National Council of Building Material Producers.	10, Princes Street, S.W.1.	Abbey 5111
NFBTE	National Federation of Building Trades Employers.	82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4041/4054
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, Federal House,	Cedars Road, Clapham, S.W.4.	Macaulay 4451
NFHS	National Federation of Housing Societies.	13, Suffolk St., S.W.1.	Whitehall 1693
NHBRC	National House Builders Registration Council.	82, New Cavendish Street, W.1.	Langham 4341
NPL	National Physical Laboratory.	Head Office, Teddington.	Molesey 1380
NSA	National Sawmilling Association.	14, New Bridge Street, E.C.4.	City 1476
NSAS	National Smoke Abatement Society.	Chandos House, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	Abbey 1359
NT	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty.	42, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 0211
PEP	Political and Economic Planning.	16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 7245
RCA	Reinforced Concrete Association.	94, Petty France, S.W.1.	Whitehall 9936
RIAS	Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.	15, Rutland Square, Edinburgh	Edinburgh 20396
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects.	66, Portland Place, W.1.	Langham 5721
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.	12, Great George St., S.W.1.	Whitehall 5322/9242
RFAC	Royal Fine Art Commission.	22A, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.	Whitehall 3935
RS	Royal Society.	Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.	Regent 3335
RSA	Royal Society of Arts.	6, John Adam Street, W.C.2.	Trafalgar 2366
RSI	Royal Sanitary Institute.	90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.	Sloane 5134
RIB	Rural Industries Bureau.	35, Camp Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.	Wimbledon 5101
SBPM	Society of British Paint Manufacturers.	Grosvenor Gardens House, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.	Victoria 2186
SCR	Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR.	14, Kensington Square, London, W.8.	Western 1571
SE	Society of Engineers.	17, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.	Abbey 7244
SFMA	School Furniture Manufacturers' Association.	30, Cornhill, London, E.C.3.	Mansion House, 3921
SIA	Structural Insulation Association.	14, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.	Central 4444
SIA	Society of Industrial Artists.	7, Woburn Square, W.C.1.	Langham 1984
SNHTPC	Scottish National Housing.	Town Planning Council.	Hon. Sec., Robert Pollock, Town Clerk, Rutherglen.
SPAB	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.	55, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.	Holborn 2646
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Association.	28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.	Temple Bar 5006
TDA	Timber Development Association.	21, College Hill, E.C.4.	City 4771
TPI	Town Planning Institute.	18, Ashley Place, S.W.1.	Victoria 8815
TTF	Timber Trades Federation.	69, Cannon Street, E.C.4.	City 4444
WDC	War Damage Commission.	Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, Piccadilly, W.1.	Mayfair 8866
WEDA	Welfare Equipment Development Association.	74, Victoria St., S.W.1.	Victoria 5783
ZDA	Zinc Development Association.	Lincoln House, Turl Street, Oxford.	Oxford 47988

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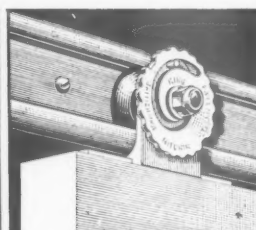


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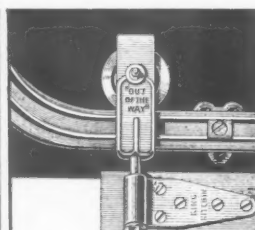
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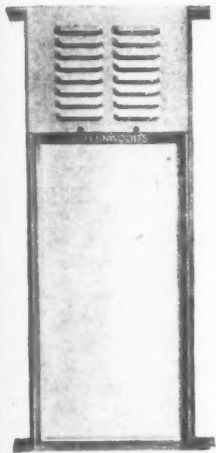
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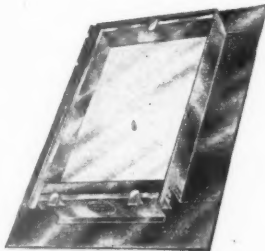
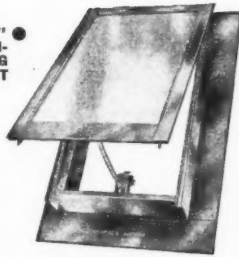
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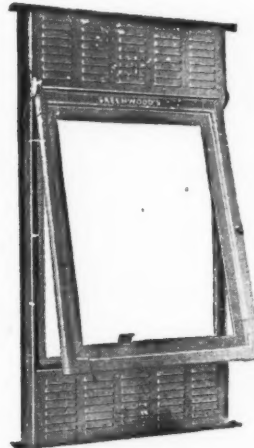
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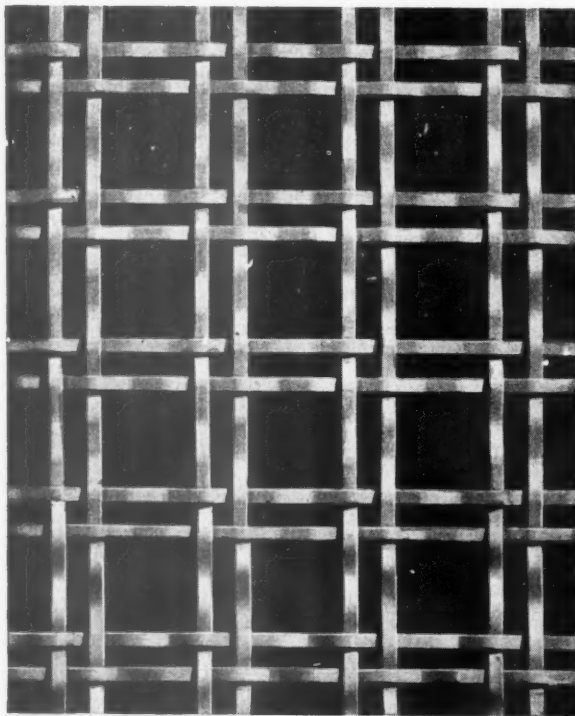


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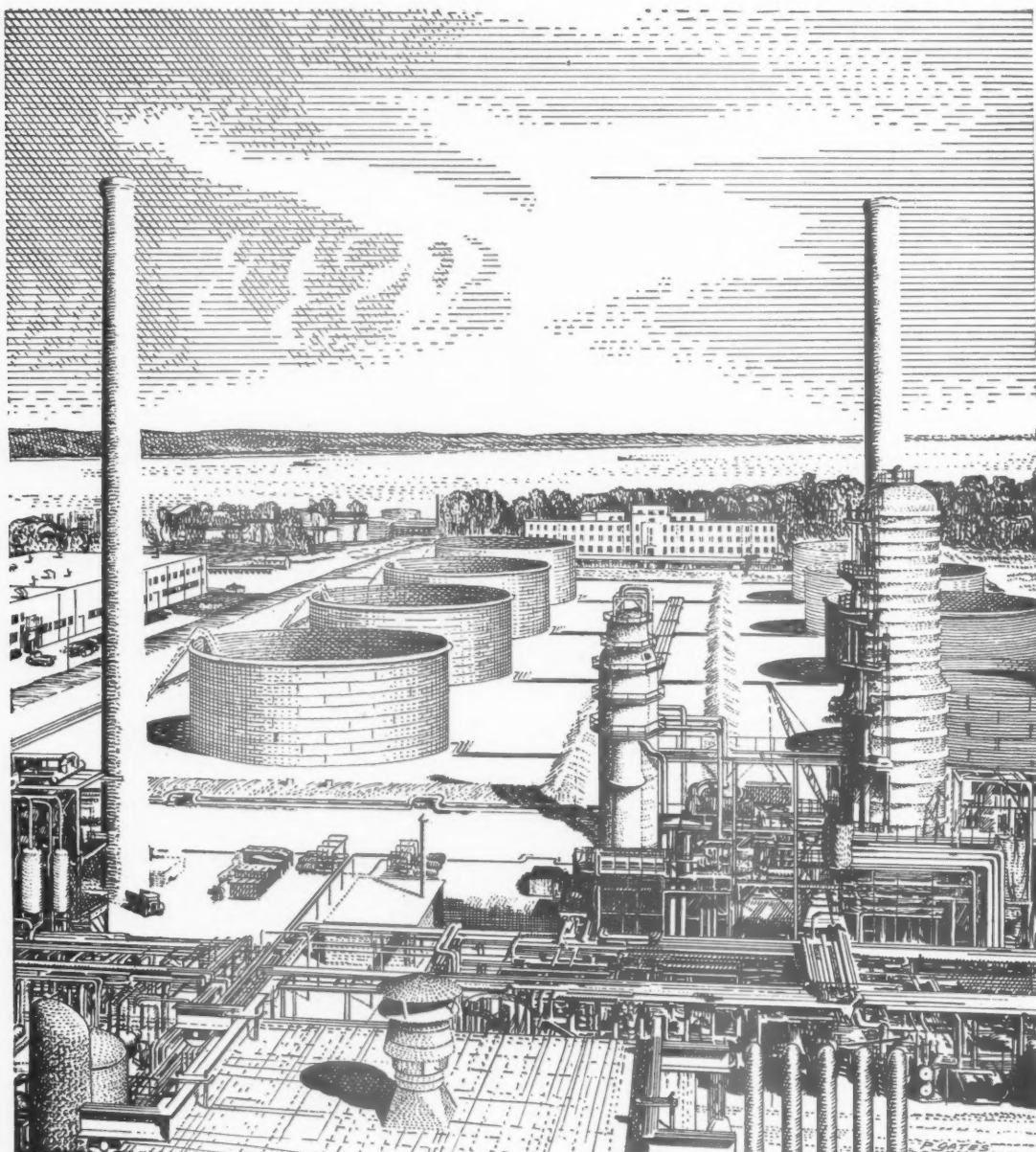


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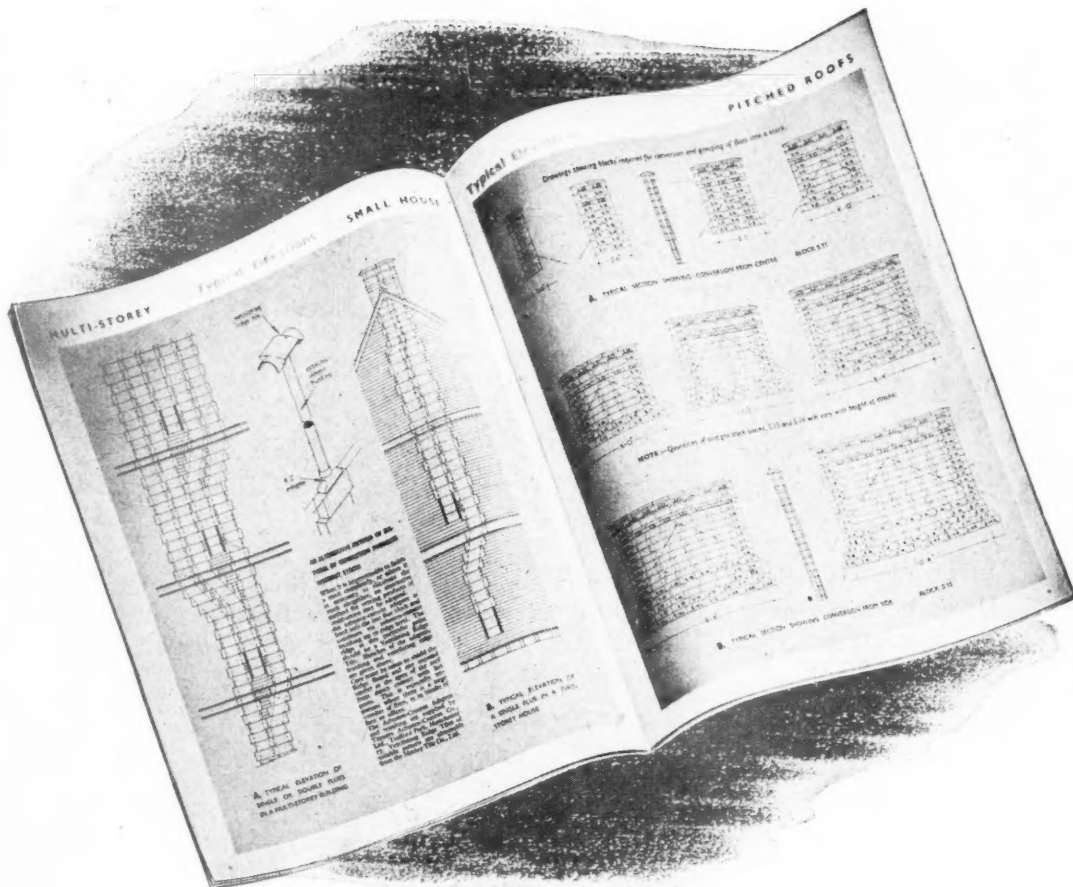
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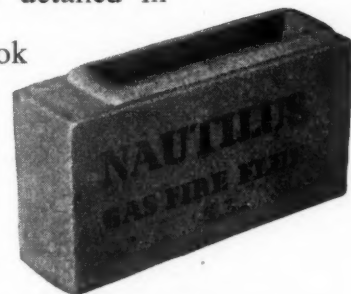




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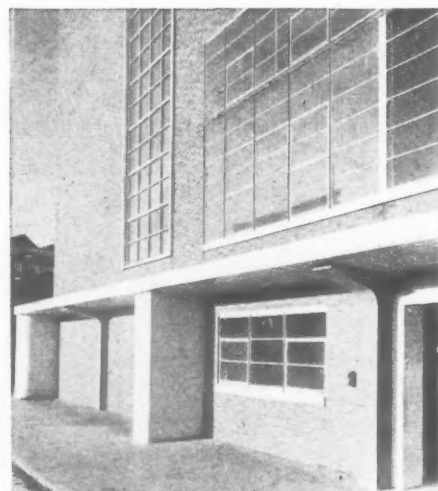


FACTORY AT LUTON

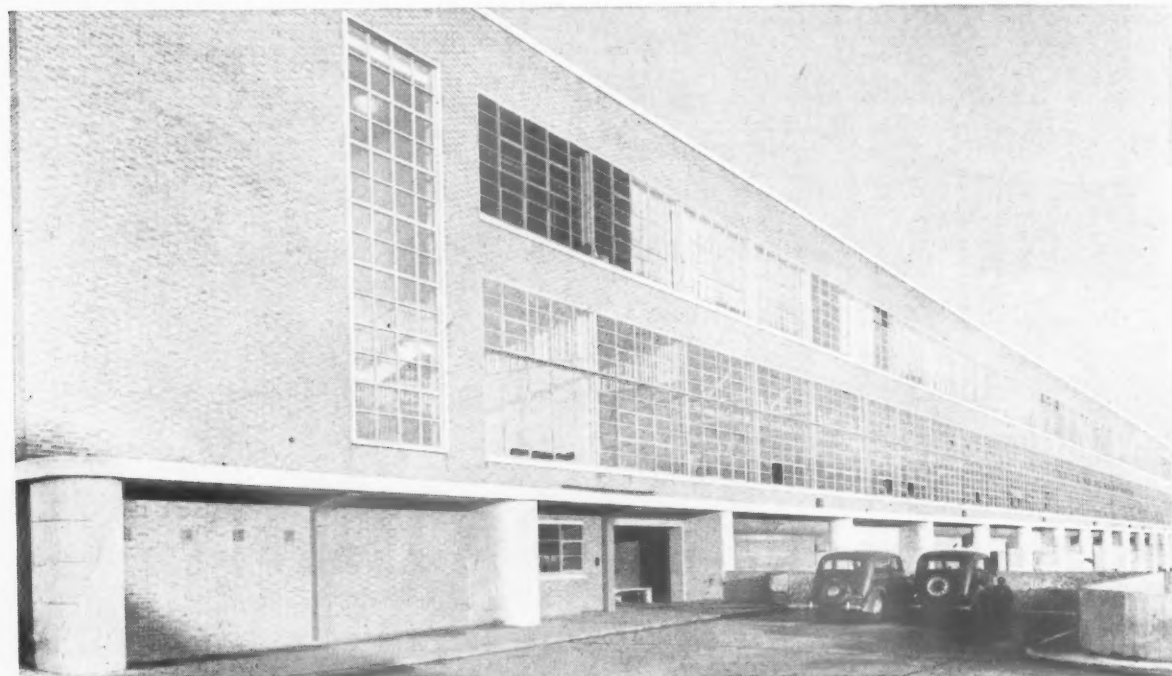
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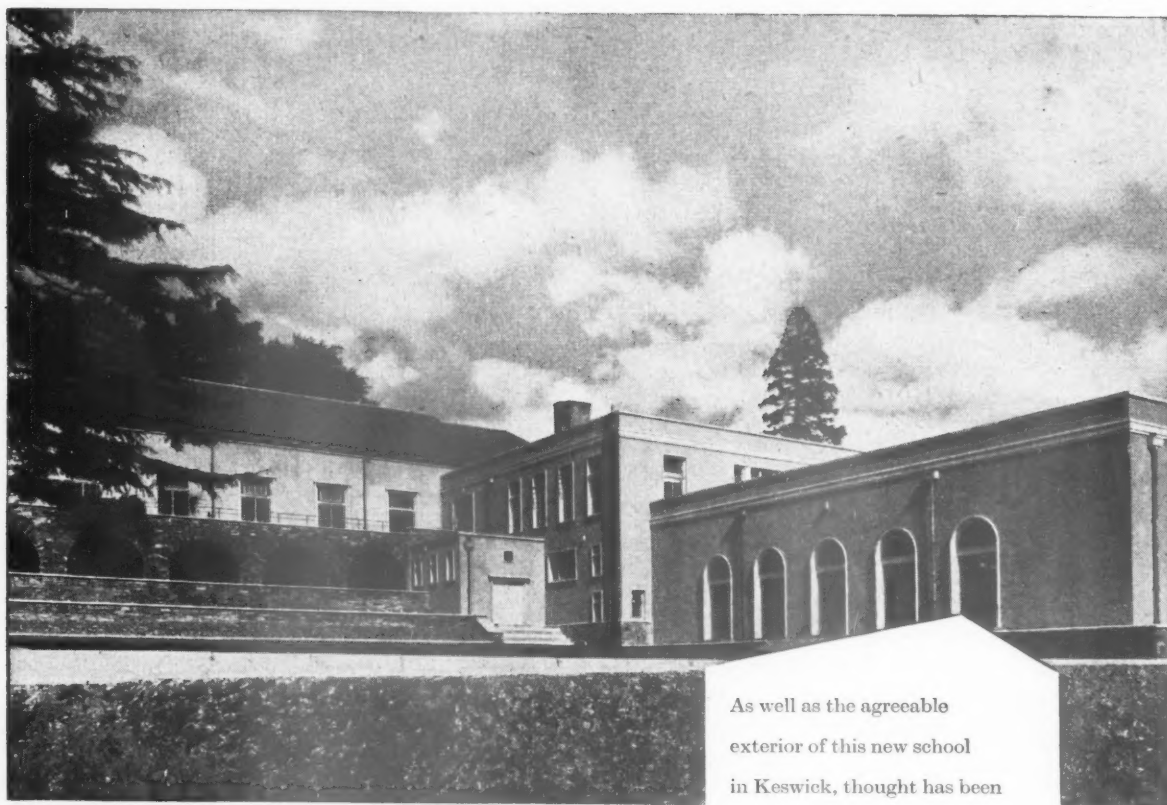


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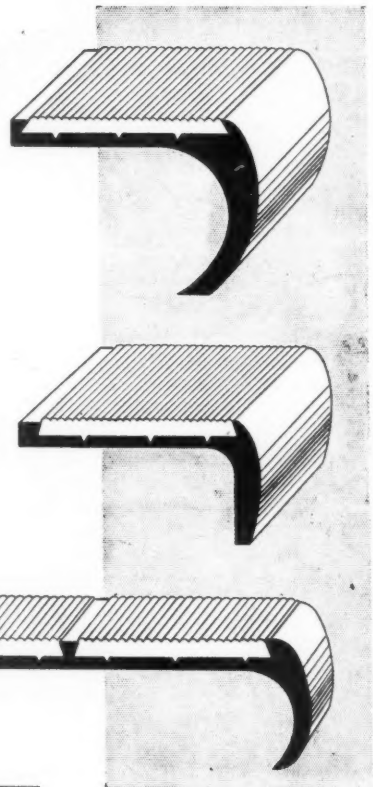
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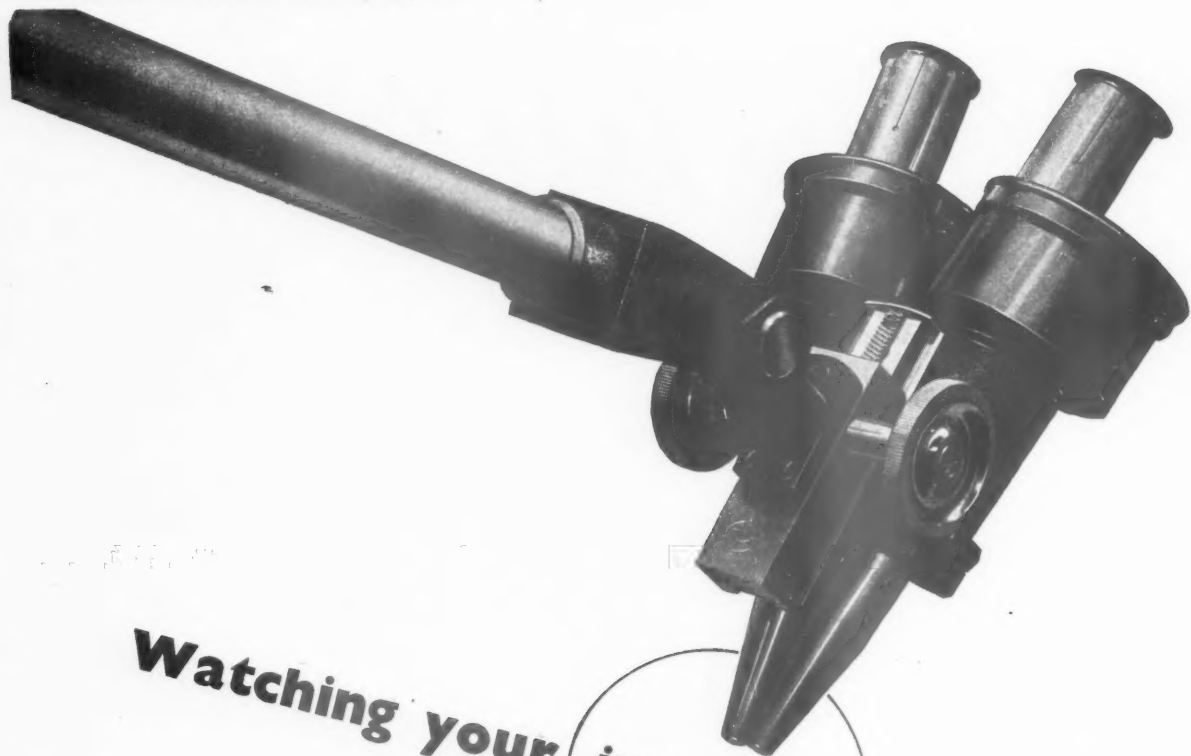
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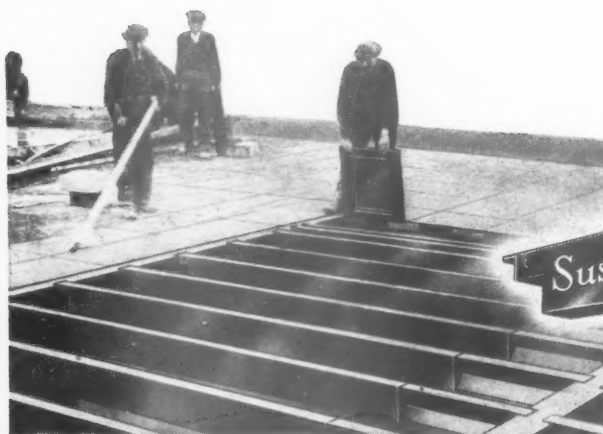
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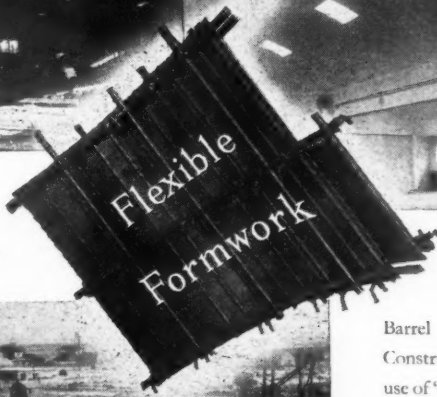
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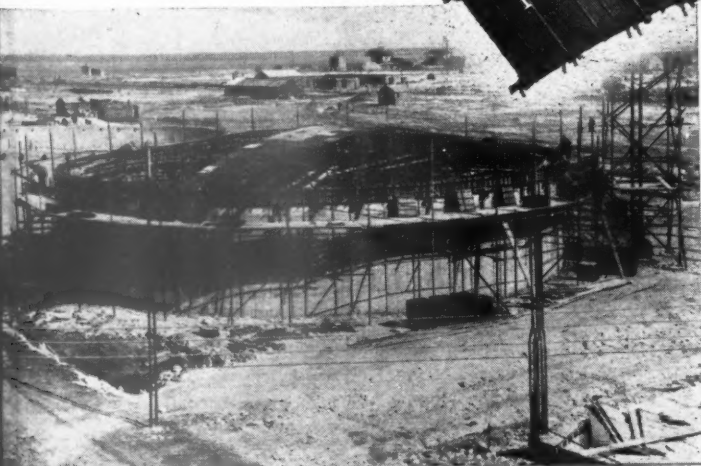


Illustration below shows general view of construction with the dome formwork in the course of fixing.



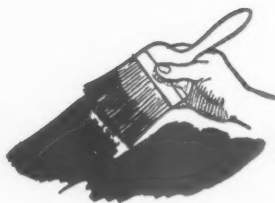
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to seal
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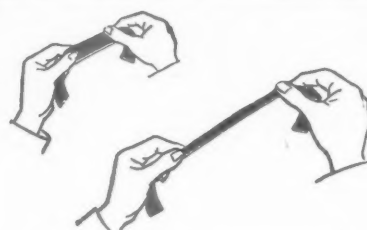
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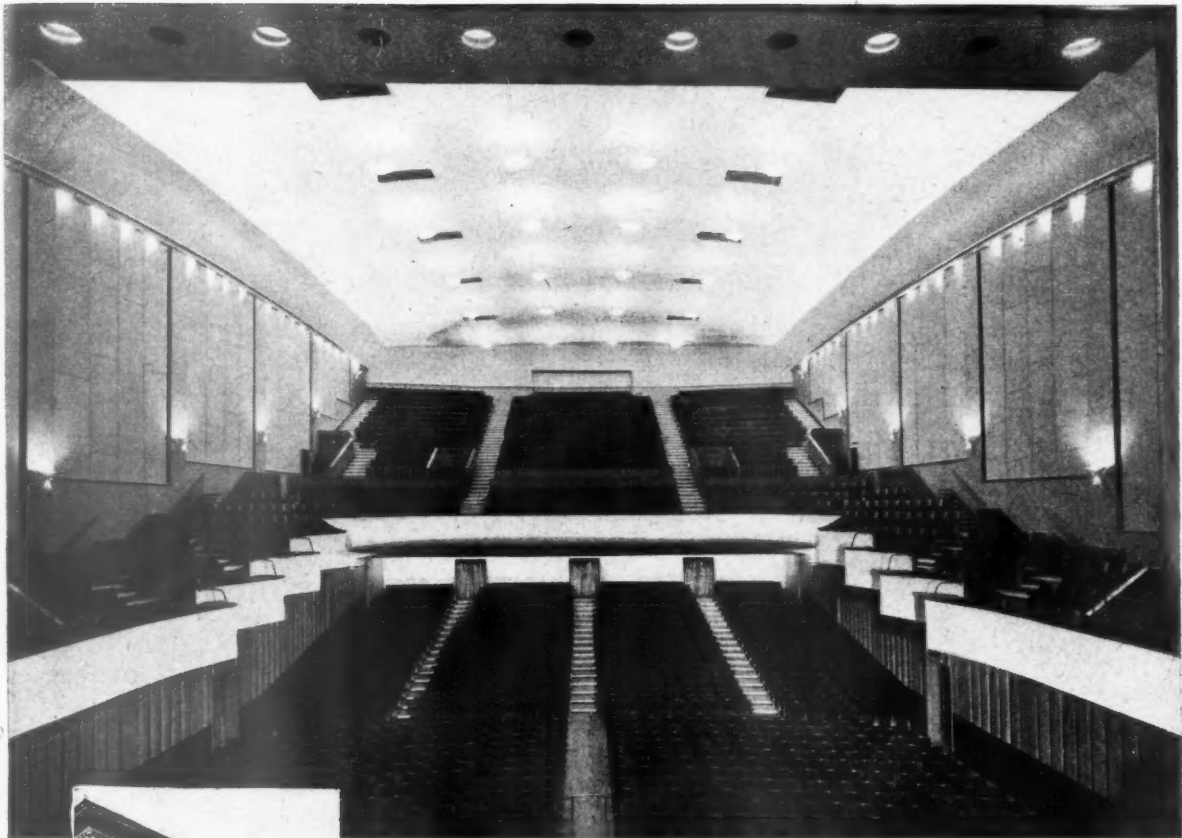
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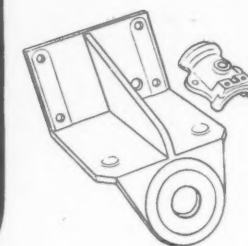
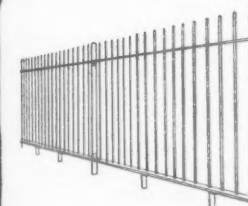
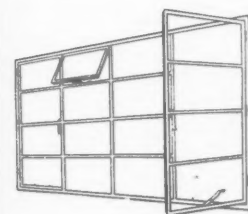
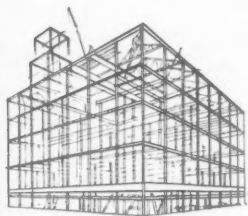
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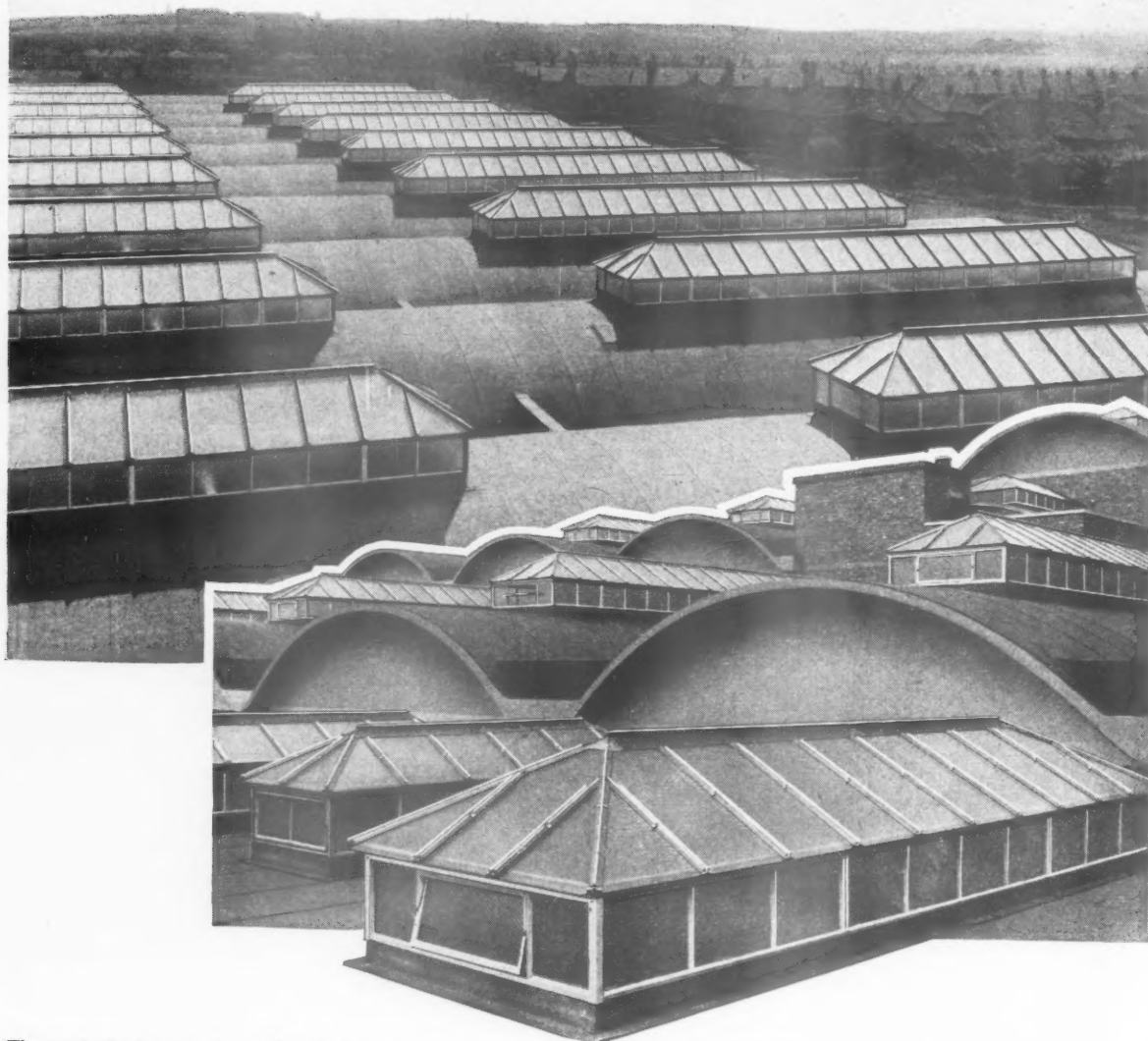
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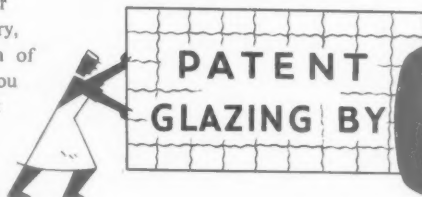
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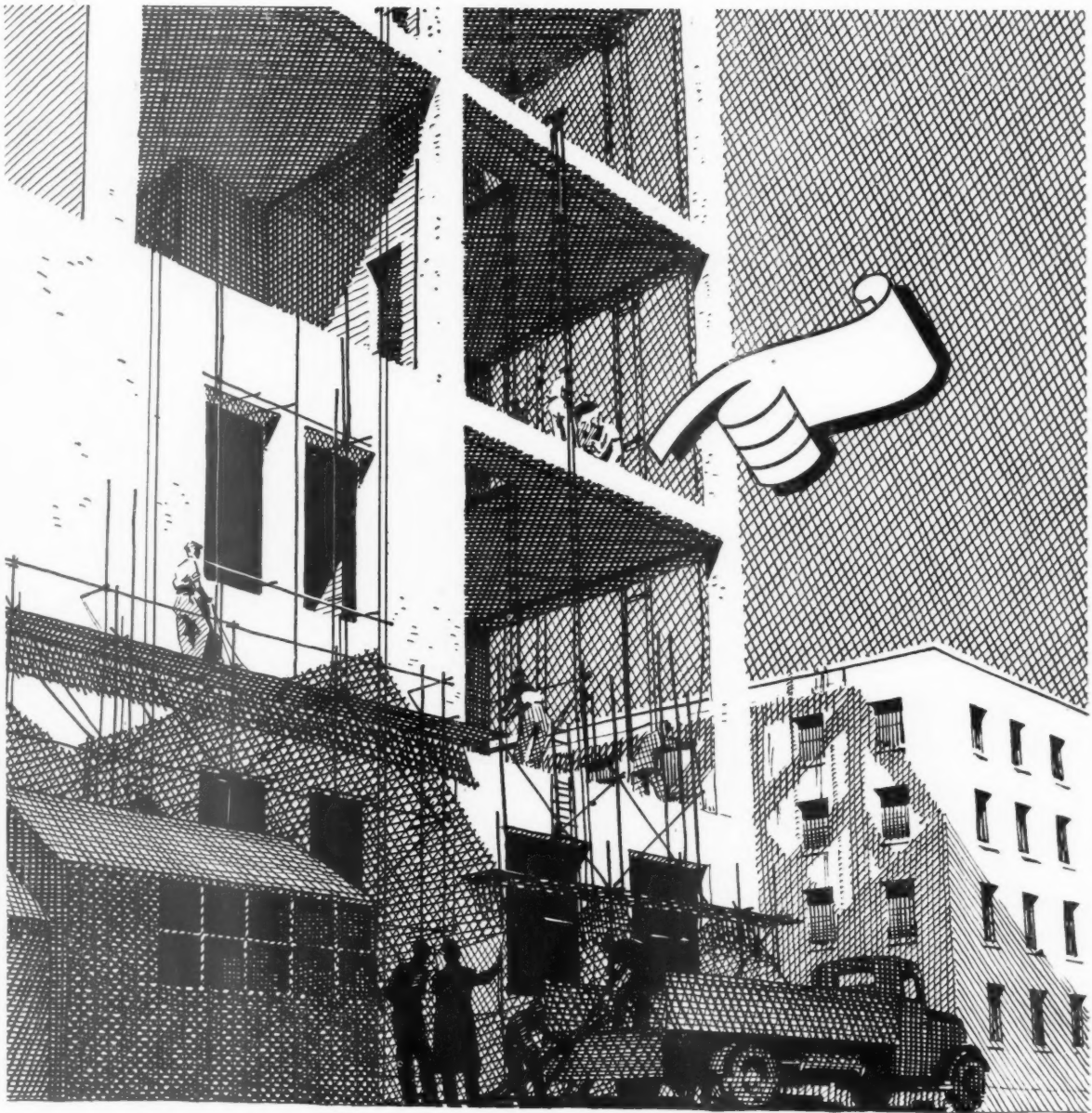
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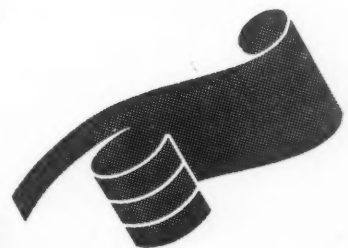
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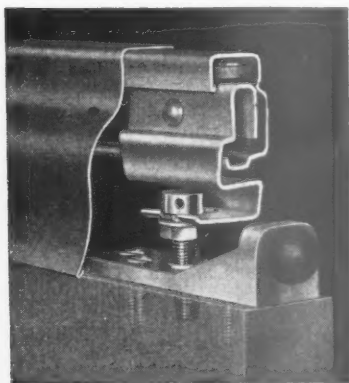
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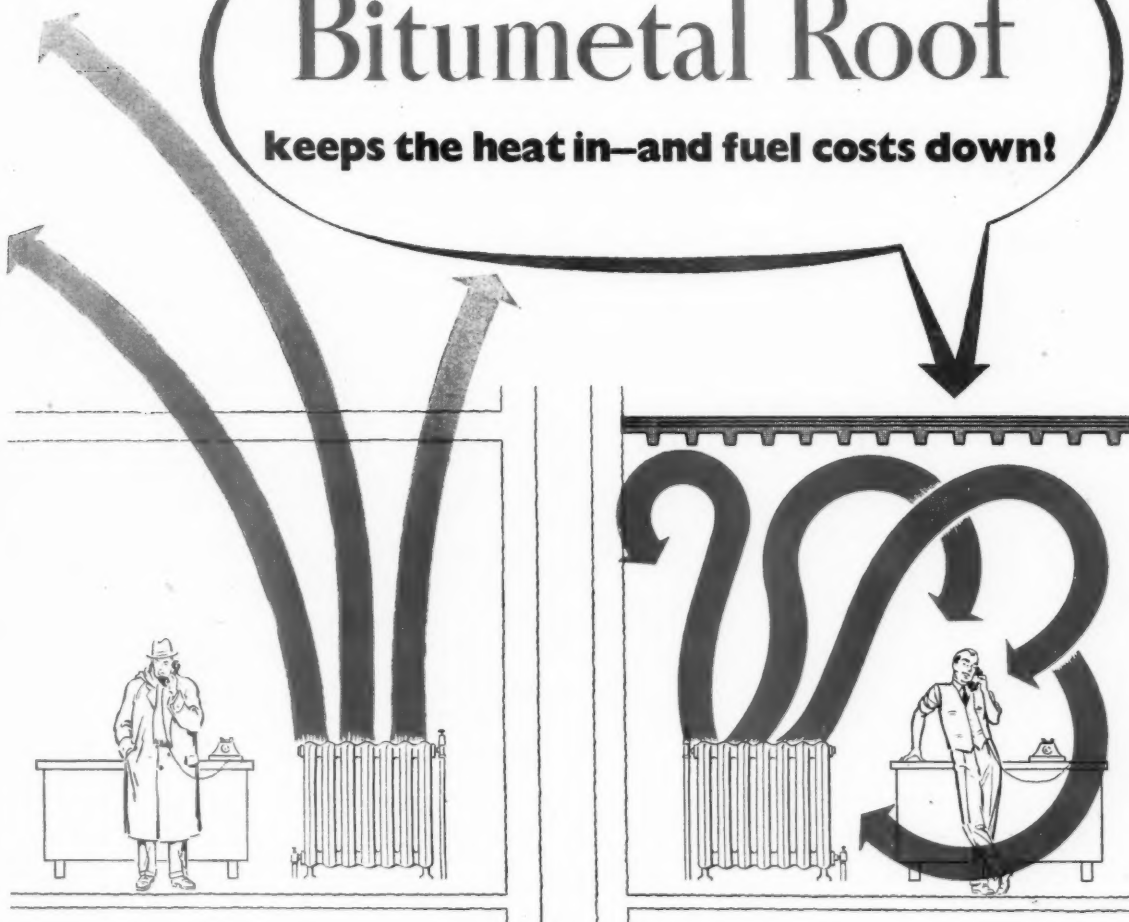
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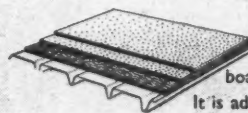
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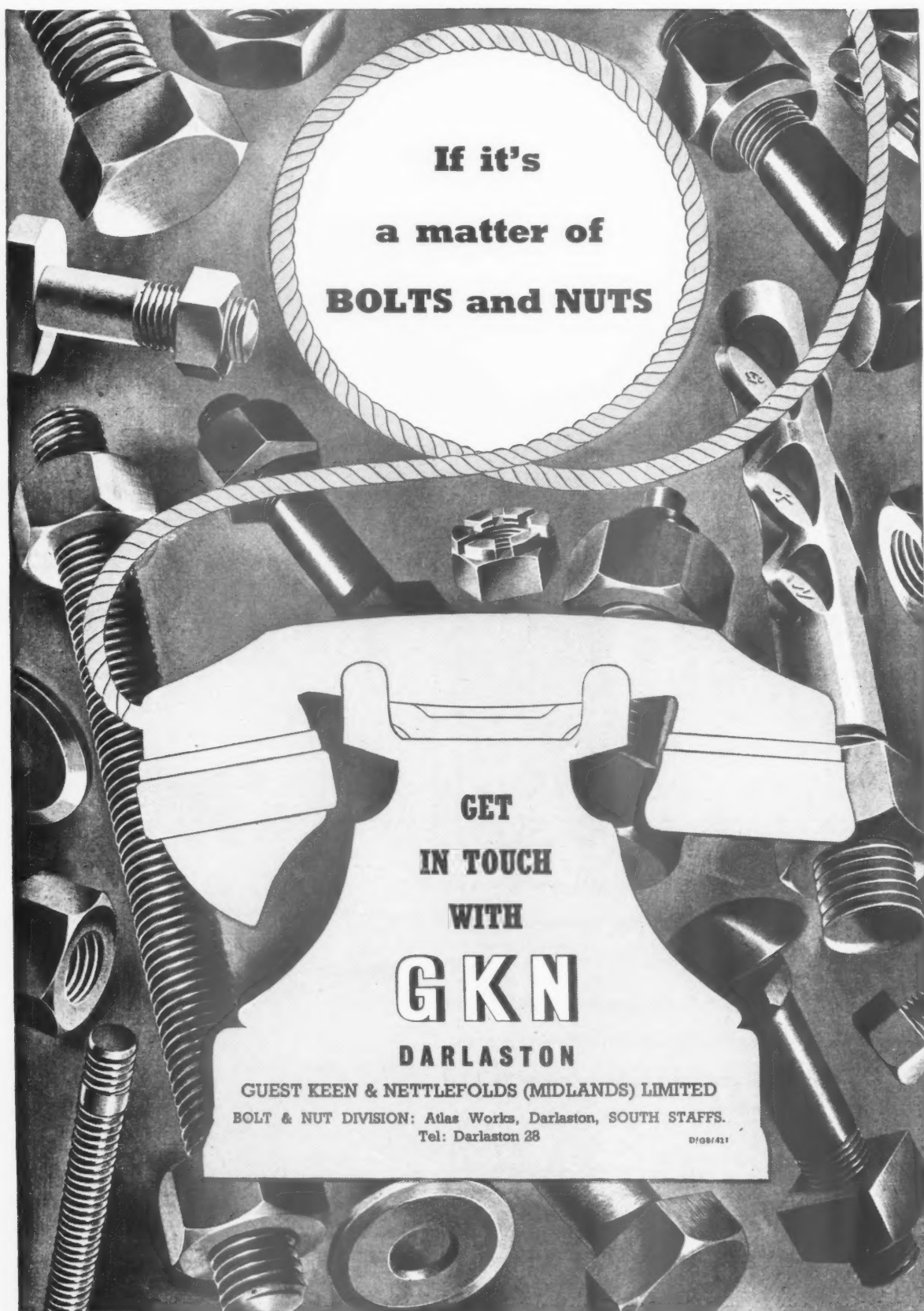
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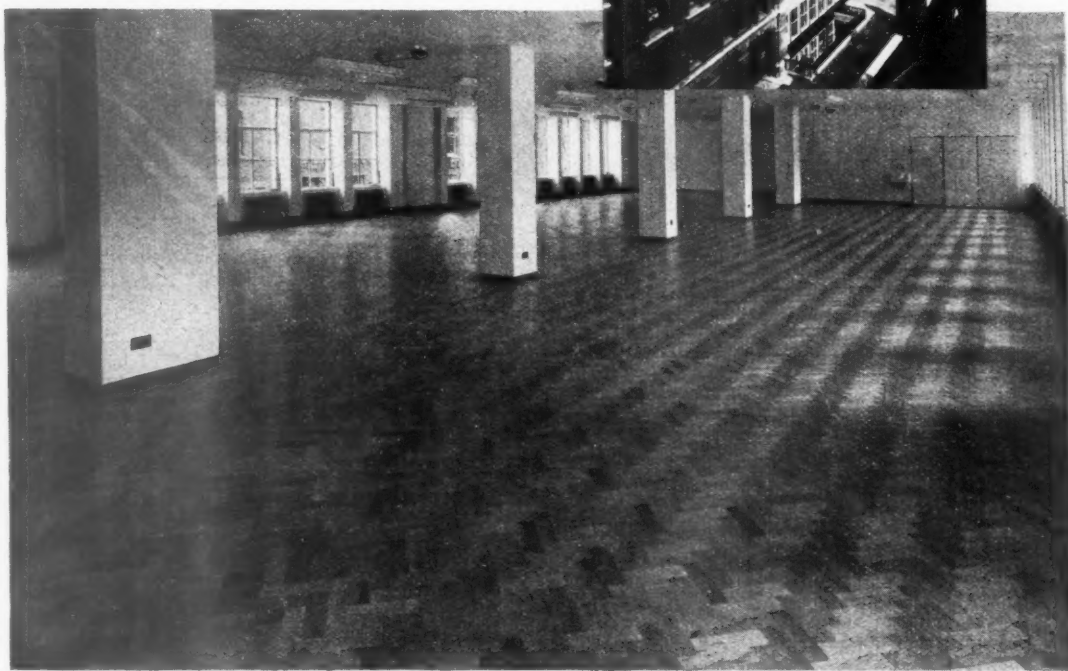
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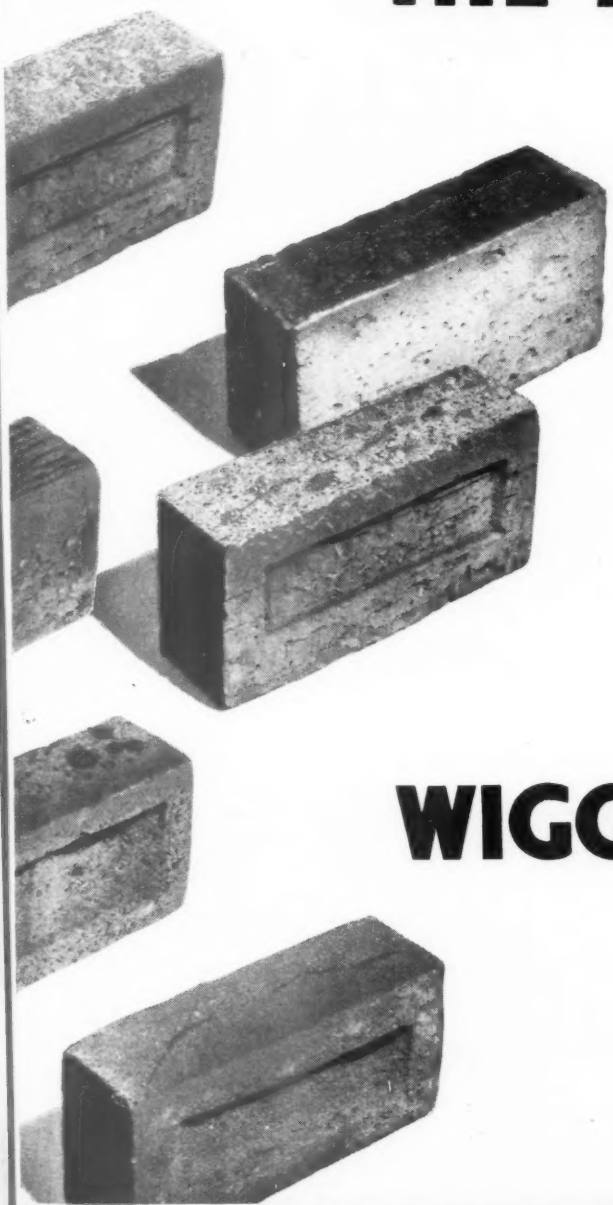
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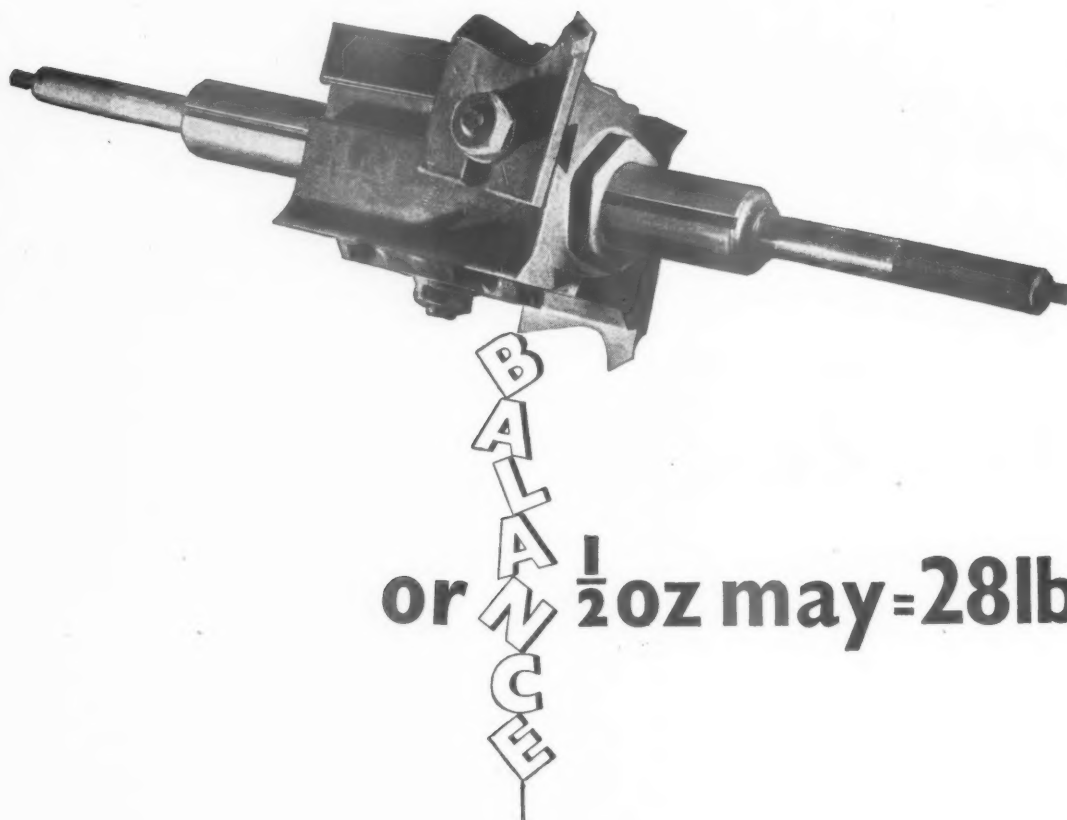


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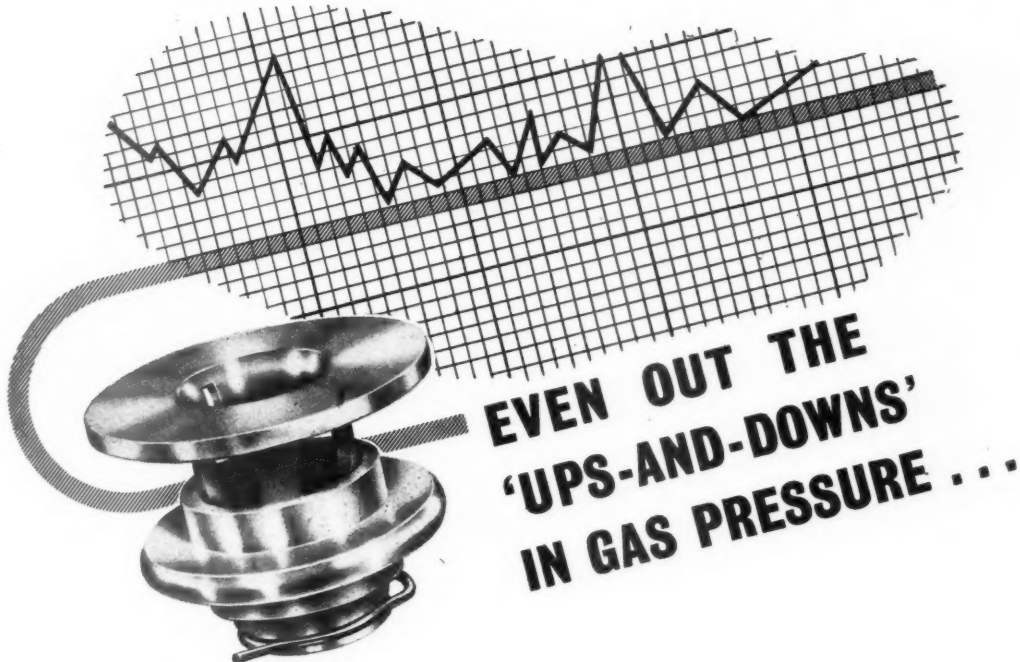
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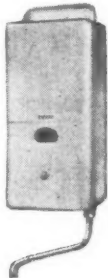
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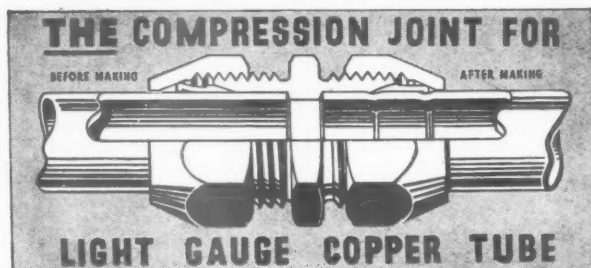
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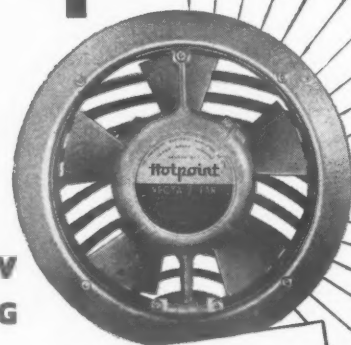


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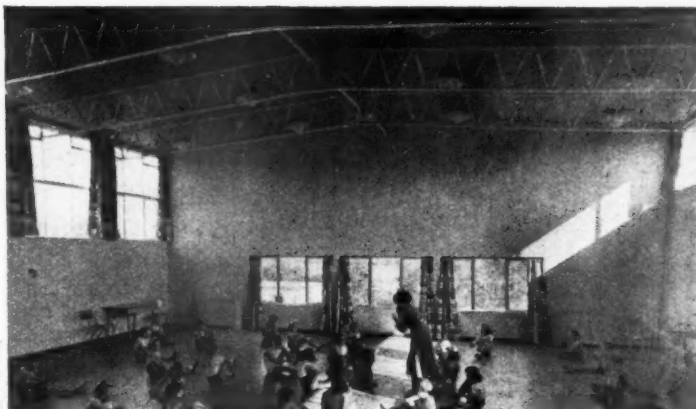
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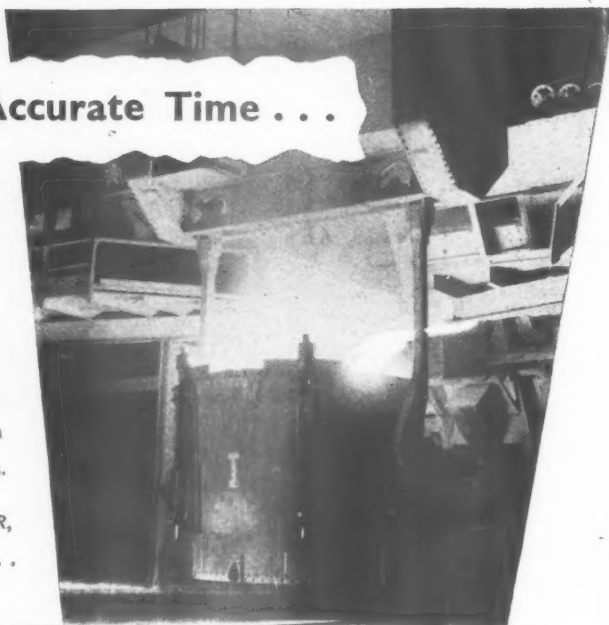
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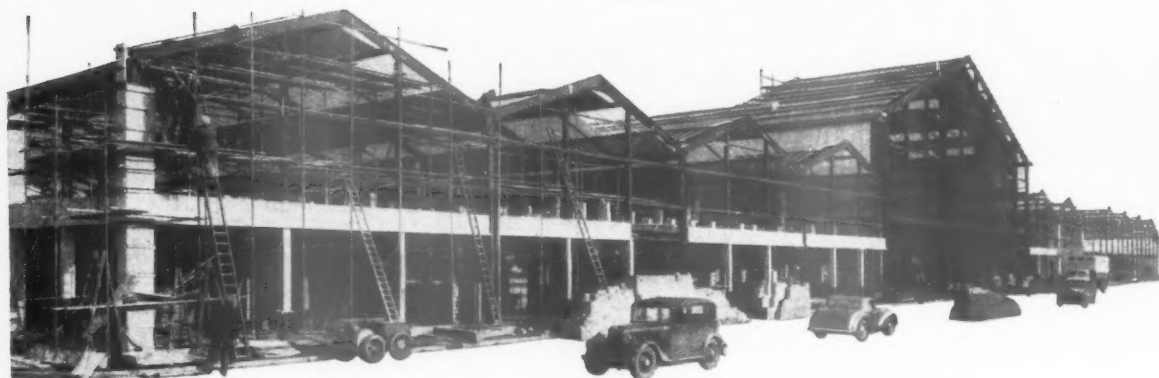
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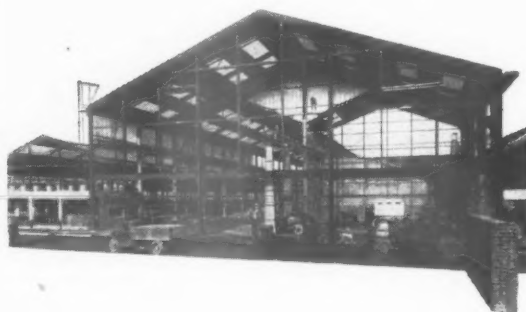


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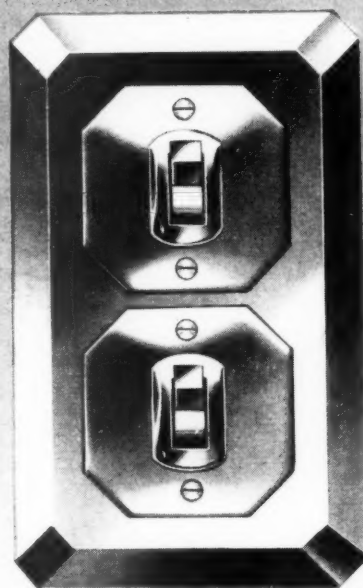


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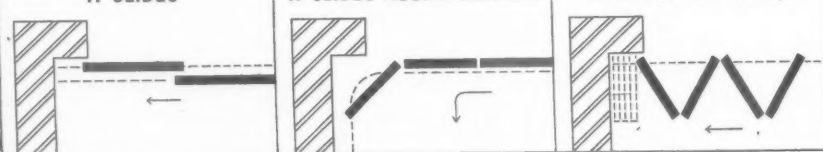
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No. 2987 May 29, 1952 VOL 115

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CALM YOURSELVES

Last week Hugh Molson, Parliamentary Secretary to the MOW, announced that in six weeks' time there would be some changes in building licensing and possibly some relaxation.

Many architects who have had jobs postponed and re-postponed must have surprised their wives by their subsequent hilarity at breakfast; but wise ones, like ASTRAGAL, probably postponed their hilarity and 'phoned MOW. And they were right. Relaxations will surely be confined to raising the £100 free margin and similar smaller matters. If David Eccles has any big changes in mind he is not yet ready to tell us about them. Not that he has been idle. His ministry is a splendid example of the way that the

tentacles of government—"irrespective of party"—reach out ever further and further and often in the most unexpected directions. What sort of job would Mr. Gladstone or even Charles James Fox have made of the picture postcard industry? This purely rhetorical question arises from the news that Mr. Eccles is going into the business. He is not, I gather, to supply Margate and Weston-super-Mare with a fresh batch of designs of the usual type, but he has appointed a committee to produce better p.c.'s of MOW buildings. This seems an excellent idea. Sir Eric de Normann is to be chairman and Sir Francis Meynell, I. D. Wratten and Miss Peggy Delius are among the members.

Mr. Eccles says he is "convinced that British photography can put us in the lead . . ."—one of those patriotically loose ministerial statements that are no less irritating because they are not meant to be taken literally. Rome, Stockholm and Venice, for example, have already set an example; if we catch them up that is all that is necessary. On the other hand, what a pity—though this is no fault of MOW's—that the whole scheme is not one for producing better p.c.'s of British architecture and the British scene, and not just for the very limited field of buildings in MOW care. May I put in a plea for stretching a point and ask for the inclusion of good air photographs—even if there has to be an MOW building somewhere in the picture? Air photographs are the only thing that can give the foreigner a real idea of London's outstanding characteristics—size and diffuseness.

BRIDGE STRAIN

The South Bank's prestressed bridge,

which to my uninstructed arithmetic failed at two and a bit times its design load seems to have made Sir Owen Williams quite cross, because it contained "twice as much concrete and twice as much cement" as a normal reinforced concrete bridge. To which Sir Francis Meynell replies that it used only a quarter of the normal amount of steel and that all the cement could, if necessary, have been saved by using steel and nothing else.

Each side now no doubt considers the other demolished. But let each take heart. ASTRAGAL invites them both to consider the London 'bus, whose top deck is surely a dangerous structure upon which no one should lightly venture. Yet they go fast, go round corners and stop quickly. In fact the only way of removing a top deck is to drive under too low a bridge. Any comments from District Surveyors?

OLDE CHELSEA

That hardy annual, the Chelsea Flower Show, opened again last week (one day for royalty and members, three for the public) in all the glory of this summer weather. No need just then to leave the city to enjoy the pleasures of the English garden—something we still do supremely well. One could wander instead through the Hospital grounds transformed, almost literally, overnight into magic glades of water and rock, to which clung shrubs and plants as if to the manner born. How do gardeners manage to build so quickly? There were some full-size temples of brick and stone and even a Spanish patio, tessellated pavement and all. But in spite of the usual smattering of pixie architecture I saw no gnome peeping at me.

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There may, of course, have been some: you can never tell with gnomes. And yet however intoxicating the scent and colour, or however impressive the sometimes misdirected ingenuity and imagination with which these small flat rectangular plots are treated and given totally new dimensions, it is a relief to turn from them to the tent. Too much, as Groucho used to say, is enough.

But the tent is full of pure colour, intensified by that wonderful light which develops under canvas. (It is curious how people who rave over the vivid colour of their flowers are often the first to reject it as vulgar in their architecture.) There is still the tendency to pervert and exaggerate, to make blooms bigger or smaller than nature intended, which seems akin to the tendency to breed bulldogs with non-self-supporting legs: but nevertheless the whole effect is fine and gay.

ASTRAGAL also admired some excellent sectional glass houses for their construction, glazing and window mechanism. With all these things to absorb, he found it difficult to abandon horticulture for the popular art which winked through the trees across the river. But he succumbed to the lure of the striped pavilions of the Pleasure Gardens and will report on his findings there next week.

DANCERS AND CREEPERS

Another event of last week was, of course, the RIBA's annual reception. It has often been remarked that 66, Portland Place is at its best on formal public occasions. Whether you like or dislike its style of architecture there is no doubt that its brilliantly three-dimensional planning adds a great deal of glamour to the annual reception. Escaping from the crowd round the refreshment counter, it is a real pleasure to lean a while on the first-floor landing balustrade, watching the coming and going at several levels at once, and the dancers swimming, as it seems, in the great aquarium.

Many members of the Institute must have felt sorry, with ASTRAGAL, that Grey Wornum's serious illness prevented him from enjoying the sight of his building so colourfully used during Friday's reception, in the year when



The result of ruthless tree lopping in Beaumont Square, Stepney. See note below.

he has been given the Institute's gold medal. Many unspoken good wishes must have gone to him from Portland Place.

It is not often that the Institute takes its cue from the *Architectural Review*, so perhaps it was pure coincidence that the decorations on the staircase and elsewhere took the form of a spectacular display of indoor plants. Very successful they were; so, indeed, was the whole reception. There can be no better tribute than to say that it ran true to form.

VANDALISM IN STEPNEY

There has been much complaint lately about the unnecessary, unskilled, ruthless lopping of town trees by local authorities. A particularly flagrant instance has just taken place in Stepney. Beaumont Square was surrounded by splendid plane trees until two weeks ago when workmen from the Stepney Council visited it—with the result shown in the photograph on this page. The fact that one tree still retains its top is due only to the fact that a broken ladder prevented the whole job being completed on the day the photograph was taken. But it gives some idea of what has been lost. There is no excuse for this vandalism, which makes ASTRAGAL more angry than he can say.

RAVENNA REPLICAS

If we can ever again spend money on permanent decoration, and the right kind of artist is available, we could well do worse than employ the craftsmen of the *Bottega del Ravenna*. It is some years since I saw the churches of Ravenna, but the replicas now being shown at the New Burlington Galleries are, I think, about as good as anything of the kind can be, *pace* those who object on principle to replicas of anything. They are enormously impressive. The solemnity of the church interiors is, of course, missing, but the replicas do give us such famous things as the Good Shepherd from the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and the Empress Theodora from San Vitale, and give them to us tessera for tessera. The colours—covering, I am told, a range of about 1,200 tints—are extraordinarily accurate; the processes are known and there is no technical reason why they should not be.

The replicas are based on a mould taken from the original *in situ*, so that all the irregularities and variations of surface are reproduced. And how important this is; how carefully all these little cubes of glass are set to catch the light and thus to palpitate with life. More than ever, as one examines these panels in the New Burlington Galleries,



Thames-side Tivoli Re-opens

Battersea Pleasure Gardens reopened—with improvements—last Saturday. Not all the improvements are satisfactory. Here and there, particularly in areas laid out by the LCC Parks Department (which has, on the whole, done commendable work in the way of planting), there are touches of crudeness. And—most surprisingly—the new colour

schemes by James Gardner are dark and heavy, and somewhat out of character with the ethereal quality of the tents and pavilions. Nevertheless, it is refreshing to return to London's Tivoli, whose more charming and witty features are summed up in the above photograph. May the Gardens outlive their five-year plan.

one realizes that mosaic is *not* the art of making pictures in glass, but is rather the art of reflecting light. This is, most emphatically, an exhibition to be seen, and I beg you to fit it in somehow in your gallery-going. Postscript: Is Basil Spence—contrary to the traditions of European Christendom—committed to the employment of British craftsmen?

CIAM AND VENICE

Those who knew the 1949 CIAM Summer School—surprisingly successful considering that it was in Bloomsbury in August—will know that by no means the least part of it were the valuable and permanent links that it set up; the Anglo-Italian link, in particular, has been growing ever since. It is, therefore, excellent news that the Italians have now implemented the suggestion made at Hoddesdon last July, and have announced that a CIAM Summer School is to be held in Venice this year, from September 10 to October 10. Although Albini, Rogers, Aalto, Corbusier and others are to attend, it is no reflection either upon them, or upon the amount of work that is likely to be done, or not done, in a Venetian summer, to suggest that *the* most valuable parts of the idea will be the swapping of ideas in stimulating company, and the fact that senior students and post-graduate students can spend a whole month in Venice at an astonishingly reasonable rate. You can get particulars from Scuola Estiva CIAM; c/o Istituto Universitario di Architettura, Fondamenta Nani 1012, Venezia—only a few miles, remember, from Ravenna.

FINALLY . . .

. . . ASTRAGAL (who has been referred to in his time as "that there Astrakhan") knows how saddening it can be to have one's name spelled wrongly. And as, like Cato, he can forgive everybody's mistakes but his own, he is filled with shame and apologies after looking at his notes for last week. For Mr. Price (principal of the Hammersmith School of Building and Arts and Crafts), read Mr. Rice; for Terence Cousan (the designer of plant stands for the current issue of the *Architectural Review*), read Terence Conran. You have probably made those corrections yourself. You have not, I hope, decided for fallibility to read . . .

ASTRAGAL

POINTS FROM THIS ISSUE

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St. Paul's river approach : a new scheme	page 660
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The Editors

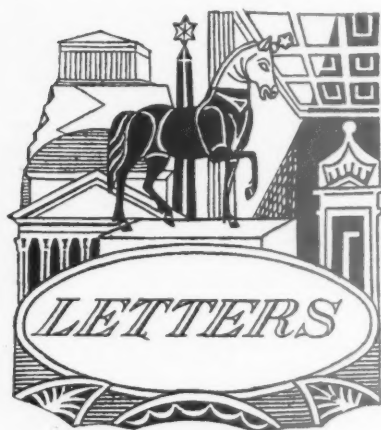
LICENSING RELAXATION: A WARNING

BUILDING licensing seems out of place in a Conservative society, and it is hardly surprising that there should be talk of its being lightened or abolished. (Hugh Molson threw out some hints of this possibility in the House last week.) Unemployment in many parts of the country is growing serious. It arises, to be sure, mainly in industries other than building, but a constructional boom is the classic remedy when other measures fail.

What good would come of the removal of licensing? The kind of unemployment now being experienced is not to be cured by an expansion of building output. Unemployment in building itself is falling—in the usual seasonal manner. The number of jobs still to be completed—or even to be started—for the Government programme is still very large, though not much publicised. There are large programmes of high social priority, such as educational buildings and hospitals, which have been laid aside or postponed; and these have higher claims than the luxury buildings or amenity improvements which might slip through any wider meshed net.

Building licensing and the control of imports are the only physical controls still effectively operating. The last government ruined itself by letting in imports, and the present government ought to think twice before releasing all building work and letting it go to the highest bidder. If it made such a move its own control of the programmes in every region would be lessened. And some of the building chaos that developed in the rearmament period of 1939 to 1940 might be repeated. For all these reasons a sudden change—though it would bring great joy to the architectural profession—is to be deprecated.

But the hand that wrecked the skylon rules the building world, and no one can say how far political commitments will outweigh all other arguments in a final decision. It is to be hoped that the idea of forming an orderly building programme and of giving some serious attention to building needs will not be submerged beneath an attempted, and probably unsuccessful, stampede towards freedom for building contractors. No one might live to regret such a move more than those in the industry itself; it is far from certain that the works begun under such a stimulus would be adequate for full employment of the industry's resources. A short-lived boom might be followed by a longer period of depression.



Neville Conder, A.R.I.B.A.
Consulting Architect to the BOT for EIF

S. P. Jordan, A.R.I.B.A.

James A. Spon, A.R.I.B.A.

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Director, TDA

Arthur H. Shearing, A.R.I.B.A.
and *Neville Cowan.*

BIF Replies

SIR.—May I reply to your captioner of the frontispiece photograph of this year's BIF in the JOURNAL for May 15?

1. "... there is too much uniformity. Doubtless the organizers confuse uniformity with unity"—In point of fact the percentage of "break-away" stands allowed this year was higher than ever before and there were more sites on which the organizers not only permitted, but also encouraged, the erection of freely designed stands to great heights (five of the seven stands you illustrate are on such sites). I suggest that what your writer actually missed were the large specially designed decorative features of past years, that gave punctuation, unity and a sense of geography. The need for national economy meant that there was no money for these this year.

2. "There is something rather naïve and insipid about the 'planned' avenues..."—Agreed. There is also something rather naïve and insipid about having 1,400 exhibitors of "equal importance." If you want townscape perhaps you could persuade Gordon Cullen to devise a scheme for us with 1,400 pavilions without an increase in "circulation space" or cost to the exhibitor.

3. "... not hampered by restrictions"—The organizers only impose one restriction on "break-away" stands: they are not allowed to put names or trade marks at great heights. Seldom is any exhibitor refused permission to dispense with the shell stand if he makes

his request when applying for space allocation. But the shell stand scheme is fundamental to the purpose of BIF. Only by large contracts extending over several years and acres of floor space can the standfitting costs be kept within the means of the most important exhibitor of all—the small firm, for whom BIF may well represent the only available contact with overseas buyers.

I assure you that we have spent far more time encouraging exhibitors to exploit the full excitements of display than we have in hampering them with restrictions.

NEVILLE CONDER.

London.

BIF Design

SIR.—In addition to my architectural practice, I have considerable experience of exhibition design. Arising out of the latest BIF, one of my clients has raised a matter applicable to this and some other trade exhibitions which many will heartily endorse.

Many exhibition organizers, including the authorities responsible for the BIF at Castle Bromwich, lay down restrictive regulations concerning stand design. I refer not to regulations affecting the safety of the public, but to those which are intended for the realization of certain visual effects: for instance the setting back of "building lines" on all frontages for certain distances, and so on. These regulations are very strictly enforced and, except with a particularly large stand, it requires considerable ingenuity to avoid a "corny" layout.

My client comments that exhibition organizers would do better to make the promotion of a better general standard of display design their main object and not to concentrate on two or three cramping and negative restrictions which, followed blindly and to the letter by all standfitters acting direct for exhibitors, result in the unfortunate general appearance presented for international inspection at Castle Bromwich.

S. P. JORDAN.

London.

Wright and Wrongs

SIR.—In his NOTES & TOPICS of your issue of May 15, ASTRAGAL exhibits some of the worst failings of his kind. There is a patronising piece of journalese gossip about Gropius containing an unqualified opinion disguised as a fact. Then a nasty little insinuation about the Georgian Group having ulterior motives for promoting a competition. Next, what may well be a bit of log rolling about Joseph Singer's book on plastics. I suggest book reviews are more to be relied upon when they are not undertaken by the publishers' employees.

But worst of all, and as sly a piece of denigration as ever misled an honest man, is his judgment of Frank Lloyd Wright. All men are entitled to their opinions, but when honest and wise ones decide to voice theirs to willing ears, they are careful to qualify them as opinions. But not ASTRAGAL. He writes: "The world will remember Lloyd Wright because of Falling Waters, the Johnson Wax Building and one or two of his houses—and, I suppose, for reasons unarchitectural, the Imperial Hotel in Tokio..."; and again: "It is fascinating to study the actual details which FLW drew himself some forty or fifty years ago—but as serious architecture they just don't start."

Let's see—forty years ago or so Wright would have been detailing the Midway Gardens—"art-nouveau-cum-Aztec... better buried and forgotten"? Not even a start at serious architecture? Are the great projects for San Marcos in the Desert, St. Marks Tower and the Guggenheim Museum,

to name only three, not to be remembered? If they are forgotten it will be just because of the superficial judgments of ASTRAGAL and his ilk, and architecture will be the worse for it.

Better men than I (Mies Van de Rohe and Professor Pevsner among them) have seen Wright's imaginative influence as one of the main powers which brought architecture back to life after the long paralysis from dogmatic formalism in the nineteenth century. Perhaps ASTRAGAL, in the interests of the latest vogue which would sterilize architecture into a profession of design technicians actuated by social conscience, is trying to make Wright appear as an amusing but extravagant (and therefore unsterilized) sentimentalist.

JAMES A. SPON.

London.

Georgian Reparation

SIR.—As one particularly concerned for the proper maintenance of our old buildings, may I refer to ASTRAGAL's comment on the Georgian Group's drawing competition, in the JOURNAL for May 15?

ASTRAGAL asks what lies behind the competition. As I am not a member of the GG, I cannot give an authoritative answer, but surely it is a welcome step to encourage young architects to observe (not just "see") our old buildings, and to absorb their construction and design techniques.

It is horrifying to find that so many architects have no knowledge of historic constructional methods, so that when old buildings have to be repaired or altered to suit present-day conditions, they are either condemned as beyond repair or as unadaptable. Thus we lose valuable historic records—living buildings—and many more are spoiled by unsympathetic repair, by which I do not mean "correct" detailing in the Victorian Gothic sense.

Incidentally, how can one evolve a successful modern style in design or construction, without profiting by the mistakes or successes of the past?

D. G. MARTIN.

London.

Georgian Legacy

SIR.—In connection with ASTRAGAL's comments in the JOURNAL for May 15, those who have a genuine regard and liking of Georgian architecture will be the first to deprecate the reproduction of such buildings, whether it be for the "next batch of sham Georgian banks" or for any other purpose. The eighteenth century, however, has left us a legacy of fine buildings and if these are to be preserved or adapted for present use there must be architects who have studied the work of this period and who can handle it with sympathy.

Georgian buildings are always well mannered and it would repay ASTRAGAL to make a study of them; for a further introduction to good manners might possibly help him to write in better taste.

JOHN GEDGE.

Bedford.

Architects' SalariesIRA Comments

SIR.—My Council have followed with keen and sympathetic interest the correspondence in your columns on the related questions of salaries and professional organization generally.

In your issue of March 27, Neil Martin-Kaye fairly stated the position; with his views my Council fully concur. The opinions expressed by "17 Manchester salaried architects," "Associate" and R. H. Lister,

in your issue of May 15, might well have been lifted verbatim from any of our meetings.

Mr. Martin-Kaye paid tribute to the work of the Royal Institute in the academic field, and Mr. Leonard Howitt rounded off the point by defining the precise purposes for which that great body was founded. May we say, with all respect and emphasis, that the purposes for which the IRA was founded are in no sense competitive: they are, indeed, entirely complementary to the functions of the Royal Institute and begin at the point where the RIBA, by its constitution, finishes.

The IRA is concerned with all the practical, day-to-day problems which beset the architect after he has obtained admission to the statutory register. We believe that the fundamental interests of the profession are indivisible, that conflict between the private and official branches is fatal to those interests and that, in consequence, a healthy body of private practice is essential to the welfare of those who have chosen the official field.

With your correspondents who speak of the change in the character of the architects' clients in these days, we entirely agree. Our files bear eloquent testimony to that change in at least one vital respect—the difficulty which so many architects are experiencing in collecting their fees. This, in turn, reflects the attitude of the public which stands in urgent need of "education" in the appreciation of the architect's function in a modern community—a matter to which we gave some attention last year in a series of exhibitions for the public under the general title "The Architect and You."

Let us face the fact that, in a number of important respects, the profession is confronted with a crisis in its affairs. It may well be that a conference of architects and *bona-fide* students, convened to discuss this many-sided problem, would serve a useful purpose. If there is sufficient demand for such a conference, my Council would be happy to sponsor it.

A. E. WARD.
Secretary, IRA.

London.

....ABT Comments

SIR,—The question of the representation of salaried and "official" architects within the RIBA is a matter which can be settled only by the Institute and its members, and it would be an impertinence for others to join in. The salaries and conditions of architects (particularly of architects in public offices) are, however, of considerable interest, and affect far wider circles in the industry and the community at large.

In this connection, therefore, L. C. Howitt, the Chairman of the Salaried and Official Architects Committee of the RIBA is perfectly correct in drawing attention in his letter in your issue of May 1, to the misunderstanding by certain members of the Institute who, justifiably concerned at the general low level of architects' salaries, have taken the Institute to task over the matter. As Mr. Howitt points out, the Institute, while obviously not unconcerned over this question, is "unable to act in the way a trade union does in negotiating and securing scales of salaries for its members." It is in fact a learned society—the learned society in the profession and as such rightly holds the leading position.

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that the salaries of architects in public offices are not assessed and decided in a vacuum. They are always related to the salaries and conditions of other technical and professional officers in the same service on which the Institute can have no standing at all. On the other hand the ABT was formed in 1919 to meet precisely these needs. First of all it is constitutionally a trade union fully empowered to negotiate on salaries and conditions for the architects who predominate in its membership. Secondly, by associating engineers and surveyors with them in

membership it is able to bring the whole field under control, and to prevent employers holding down the salaries of architects by playing off one section against another.

There is no question whatever of the ABT attempting to encroach on the domain of the RIBA—that would indeed be ridiculous. But salaried architects, concerned and irritated at their economic condition, should not confuse the basic purposes of the two bodies. The RIBA is dedicated to "the advancement of civil architecture," the ABT to the advancement of the economic conditions of salaried architects and other professions in the industry. By joining the ABT architects can hasten progress toward attaining the same economic status for architects among the professions as the RIBA has achieved for architecture among the arts.

London.

F. E. SHROSBREE.

....NALGOT

SIR,—I have been very interested in reading the correspondence in your columns regarding the position of salaried architects in employment of local government offices.

One cannot help feeling that an association founded to look after the profession of architecture should act more dynamically to protect the interests of the members of that profession.

Surely the time has come when we must acknowledge the fact that the RIBA is "temperamentally" unable to face up to the hard-headed negotiators of "Establishment Committees" and the like. This means that we must create a new association to handle the vital problem of salaried officers pay.

Whilst the ABT exists as the most appropriate means to effect action, it is most difficult to recruit local government officials to an organization which is so obviously a trade union in the full sense of the word.

Let us face all the facts, therefore, and attempt to create a new organization as the civil servants have done. (I refer to the IPCS.) Let us found the NALGOT "The National Association of Local Government Officer—Technicians."

NALGO has proved itself valueless in the cause of the salaried technician. The APT Grades are a standing monument of ineffectiveness. Now is the time. Let us, architects, surveyors, engineers, get together to remedy our sorry plight.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER.

Floors for Houses

SIR,—I refer to your article in the Technical Section of your issue of the April 3, and would like to make the following points which appear to have been overlooked in your advocacy of solid concrete ground floors:—

The price of £130 per standard for softwood carcassing is completely unrealistic and out of touch with current trends. The figure of £110 you published in the Spring of 1951 is much more nearly correct.

The comparative costs you quote appear to be based on pre-war standards of construction and do not take account of the many economies which have been introduced in the last thirteen years. I would refer you to the design for a timber ground floor prepared by the TDA and recently described in the publication *Wood*.

The kind of estimate upon which you appear to base your conclusions is very misleading. Lacking in detail and excluding overheads and profits, it is much more notable for what it leaves out than what it puts in. The only way of making a comparison which is of any practical use is with a fully detailed Bill of Quantities priced at current rates. In October last, the TDA

commissioned an independent quantity surveyor to make this comparison and his conclusion was as follows:—Cost of solid concrete floor, £84 9s. 10d.; cost of suspended timber ground floor, £83 16s. 9d.

The inclusion in your estimates of the price of an "acceptable floor covering" is a little questionable. Opinions differ as to what is acceptable under different circumstances. From a survey of conditions in housing estates visited, there seems little doubt that most tenants aspire to rugs or carpets in the living and dining rooms and linoleum, etc., in kitchen spaces. In these circumstances, the inclusion of a figure for "acceptable floor covering" in a comparison of costs would appear to be reasonable in the kitchen space but not elsewhere.

Your statement that the timber floor is colder and noisier is so far removed from the general conception of what these words mean as to require a little explanation. Clearly, timber is much warmer to the touch than the alternative materials in use. This is, of course, accounted for by its lower thermal capacity, while noise hardly enters into the consideration of normal ground floor construction. I presume that so far as thermal properties are concerned, your conclusions are based on "U" values such as those given in the IHVE Handbook. It has become fashionable to attach considerable weight to these figures in spite of the Institution's warning that the values for ground floors are empirical coefficients to be used in the absence of scientific data. The figures themselves have obviously little relation to the "comfort" values with which the housewife is concerned, as, amongst other things, they lead to the conclusion that bare concrete is nearly twice as warm as a timber floor. Most housewives and, indeed, anyone else who has tried it, would hold a different opinion.

It is suggested that considerably more research must be undertaken before a decision is made in favour of decreasing the "U" values of floors. If it were decided that such a step were economically worth while, it would be very simple to achieve with the timber floor. The comfort values which are of real importance, however, are much more complex than can be assessed by simple computations such as those mentioned above. In showing a marked preference for timber, housewives, builders and local authorities are, in effect, showing an understanding of such things as resilience and low thermal capacity which, so far, appear to have eluded quantitative analysis.

PHILLIP O. REECE.

London.

[The Technical Editor's comments are to be found on page 673.]

Sea Shore Architecture

SIR,—Some little time ago ASTRAGAL had occasion to comment on the "rash of little gardens" breaking out all over London, and referred in passing to the sinister operations in progress in Grosvenor Gardens. If he has not passed this way recently, to avoid unnecessary pain, he will be well advised to stay away, or, if he is forced into the Victoria district, to turn his back as the statue of Marshal Foch is happily able to do.

Brooding over the tangle of tortured curlicue paths previously commented on, are two rudimentary structures, in the Baroque "Sand Castle" school, richly ornamented with miscellaneous crustacea. These presumably combine the functions of housing garden implements and providing somewhere for the attendant to sit where he need not look at the garden. Unhappily these buildings lack only one aspect of seashore architecture—the most important—that of being mercifully obliterated in a maximum of eleven hours.

ARTHUR H. SHEARING.
NEVILLE COWAN.

Mayfair.

NEW CATHEDRAL IN NIGERIA



The first part of the new Anglican Cathedral, the Lady Chapel, seen above, for the Niger Diocese at Onitsha, Nigeria, was consecrated by the Bishop in the Sudan on May 10. The architect is Richard S. Nickson and his work represents an endeavour to build a cathedral church in West Africa, using contemporary constructional methods, in a design suited to the climate. As much use as possible has been made of local building materials, and of African craftsmanship, in wood-carving, metalwork, and textiles. The outer walling and buttresses are of locally quarried ironstone, laid in coursed rubble. All the panel walls are of concrete blocks and reinforced frames.



The building is entirely without windows or fixed glazing of any kind; constant natural ventilation is provided by continuous concrete louvred panels, seen above, right. These are used on the north and south walls, at balcony and clerestory level, and upwards to ceiling level, and at ground floor nave level, by large openings, filled with light metal grilles of local design and craftsmanship. At the high stepped sanctuary, a triangular disposition of reinforced concrete piers, and of concealed fixed coloured glass louvres give a diffused illumination in the colours of the spectrum, while avoiding any direct glare from the sun's rays. Internally, the concrete block walls are white. This first section of the Cathedral has been built and furnished at an overall cost of some £30,000, most of which sum has been raised by local African church subscriptions over a period of three years. The contractors are H. E. B. Greene, Ltd.



LICENCES

Opinions of NFBTE

Last week Hugh Molson, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, gave a hint in the House of Commons that there might shortly be a relaxation in licensing.

A spokesman of the NFBTE, in an interview with a JOURNAL representative, said that the Federation believed that the present licensing limit could be increased without dislocating the building industry. Many builders, he said, felt that the increase could be to £500 for domestic buildings and to £1,000 for industrial buildings, instead of the present limits of £100 and £500 respectively.

The MOW spokesman pointed out that the building industry needed far greater freedom, and that licences for all houses up to 950 or 1,000 sq. ft. should be disbanded. There were many small firms all over the country who were not doing any work because they could not afford to increase their administrative staff to deal with the necessary paper work. Before the war these firms were much used by architects who knew their standard of work and craftsmanship. They were then able to build up to half-a-dozen small houses a year. If licences for the 950 sq. ft. house were swept away, these firms could start building again.

Asked if firms divided their activities between repair and maintenance and house building, he said that firms who carried out maintenance work were not necessarily house builders. There was no fear that the maintenance side of the industry would be flooded with work. Prices for repairs were high and were likely to remain so. In connection with house building, he said that some local authorities were not issuing a sufficient number of licences for political reasons. A further limitation was the amount of building land available. There are rumours that the Council of the RIBA is considering the problem of the value of licences; no official statement has been issued.

RIBA

Architects' Salaries and the Treasury

At a meeting of the Council on May 6, acting on the recommendation of the Salaried and Official Architects' Committee, it was agreed to express to the Treasury the Institute's disappointment that its own recommendations regarding the salaries of chief architects in central Government service had not been endorsed by the Gardiner

Committee. The Council also decided to ask the Treasury to reconsider these recommendations.

New Committee on Training and Qualifications

The Board of Architectural Education of the RIBA has, with the approval of the Institute's Council, arranged for a Committee to investigate the problems of education and qualification for architects. The committee will continue the work started by the *ad hoc* Committee on architectural education, and will consist of representatives of the Examinations and Schools Committee.

The new Committee will study the various means of attaining the qualifications for Associate membership. It will prepare an advisory memorandum to give guidance on the methods of training, the minimum standard of knowledge and attainment necessary and the means by which such minimum attainment can be achieved by the various methods of training. In addition the Committee will consider under what conditions courses, based on part-time office and school attendance, can be accorded recognition for exemption from the RIBA Final Examination.

The Committee will receive evidence, in writing in the first instance, from persons interested in the training of architects. Notice of intention to give evidence should be sent to the Secretary of the Board of Architectural Education, RIBA, 66, Portland Place, W.1, before the end of June, 1952.

Gift to Students

At the same meeting the Council received with appreciation a gift of 100 dollars from Margaret Chadwell. The money is to be presented to an architectural student considered to be of outstanding talent.

FIB

Coronation Medal

The Industrial Art Committee of the FBI, the COID, and the Royal Mint Advisory Committee have jointly agreed to the appointment of a Coronation Medal Panel which is to examine and report upon designs and sample specimens of metal Coronation medals proposed to be offered for sale to the public, or to local authorities and others for distribution as Coronation souvenirs. The Panel will also maintain liaison between the Royal Mint and the medal trade in order to establish as high a standard as possible in the design and production of such medals.

The chairman of the Panel is G. R. Hughes, Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Other members are T. R. Mott and S. Dawson-Collins of the British Jewellers' Association representing the FBI, S. Gordon Russell and Stanley Wright representing the COID, P. H. Jowett and L. L. H. Thompson, Deputy Master of the Royal Mint.

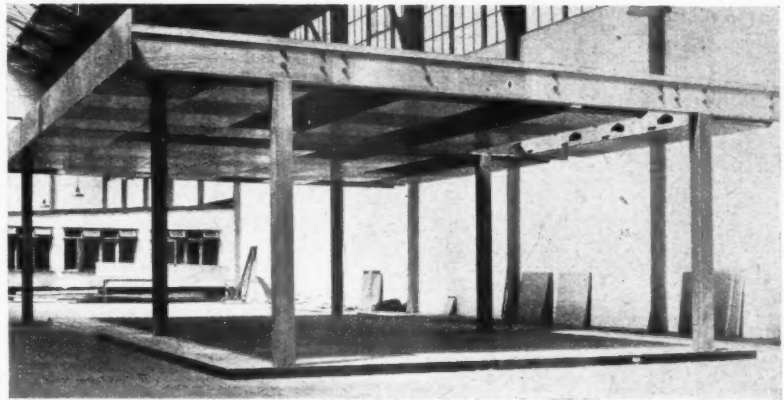
The secretary is Miss S. Milman of the Industrial Art Committee of the Federation of British Industries to whom correspondence on the Panel's activities may be addressed at Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, Cheapside, E.C.2.

MOHLG

Temporary Houses Not for Sale

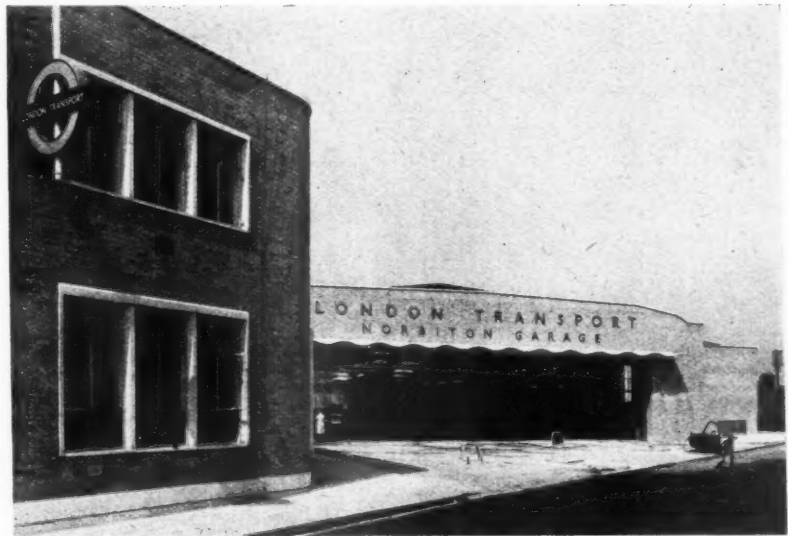
Harold Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, stated last week that temporary houses would not be included

TIMBER CONSTRUCTION PROTOTYPE



A new type of timber construction has been designed by Ove Arup and Partners on a specification supplied by the County Architect's Department, Hertford, following the lines of recent structural methods employing steel, which are being used in certain schools in the county. The prototype shown above will be illustrated more fully in the JOURNAL shortly. The contractors are C. D. Productions, Ltd.

NEW BUS GARAGE AT KINGSTON



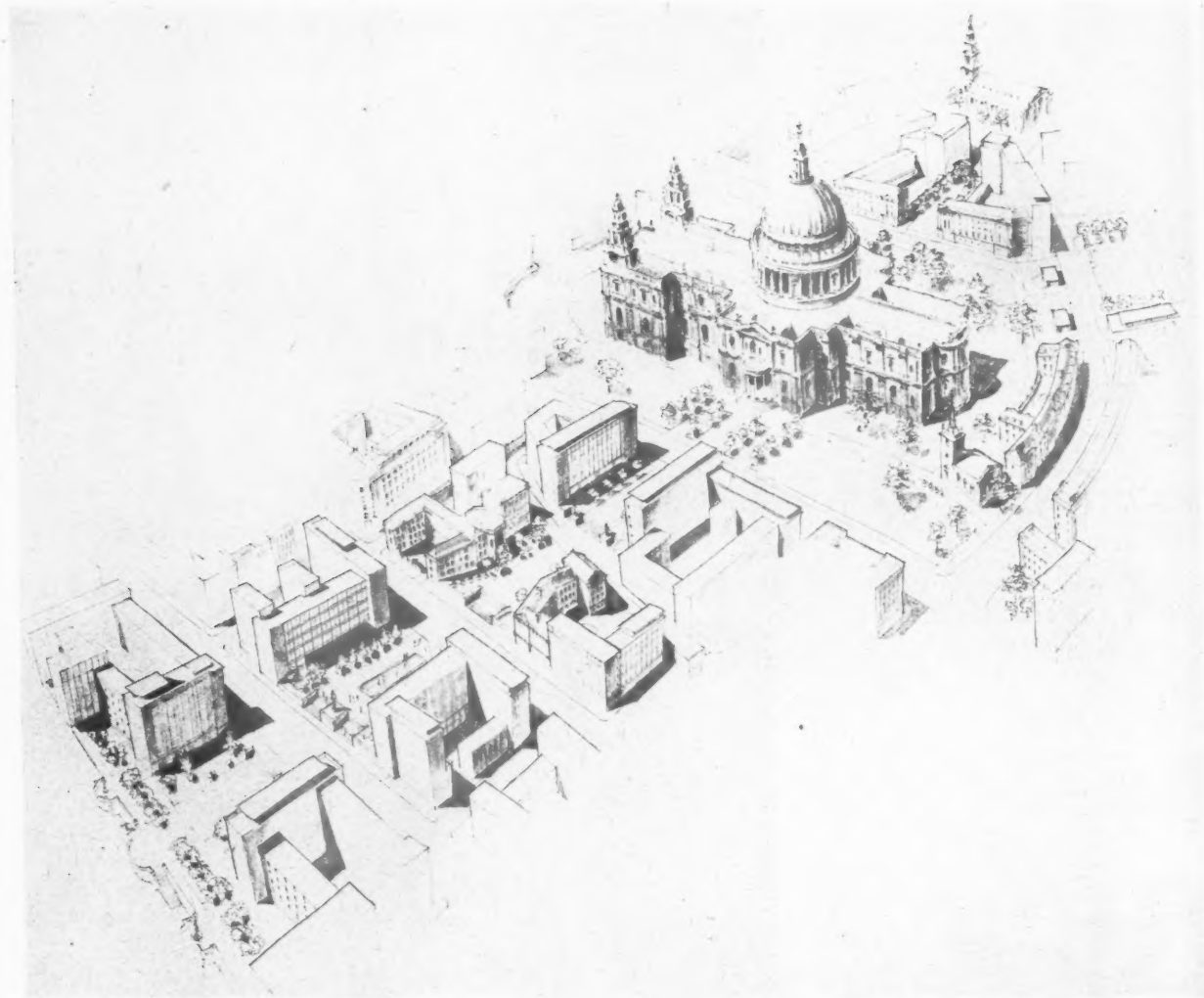
The photograph above shows the new 'bus garage in Gordon Road, Norbiton, Kingston, for the LTE, designed by Wallis Gilbert and Partners in association with Thomas Bilbow, architect to the LTE. On the right is shown a close-up view of the main entrance.

The new garage incorporates, as

separate units, a servicing and parking area, an administration block and staff canteen above. The garage, which can accommodate 70 vehicles, is of steel-frame construction with brick walls and concrete mullion windows. The general contractors were W. H. Gaze & Son, Ltd.



PROPOSAL FOR A RIVERSIDE APPROACH TO ST. PAUL'S



Interest in the proposal to open up an approach to the south side of St. Paul's Cathedral from the Thames has been revived by the suggestion that some such scheme might be carried out as a memorial to King George VI. A pedestrian way linking the cathedral and the river was included in the Holford-Holden City of London plan, and at one time there were hopes that it might be one of the permanent contributions made by last year's Festival of Britain to the improvement of London. The idea was put forward, too, as a possible Battle of Britain memorial, which could also, it was suggested, be made the occasion for returning Temple Bar to the City. One of the proposed sites for Temple Bar (recommended by Dr. Charles Holden) was on the north side of St. Paul's, where it would form the entrance to the cathedral precinct from Newgate Street. (See opposite page). Above a drawing which was made in Lord Mottistone's office (Seely and Paget, architects), to show how a southern approach to St. Paul's might look, also shows Temple Bar in this position.

In the centre of the pedestrian way, at the foot of the pool shown immediately north of Upper Thames Street, a possible position for a statue of King George VI is indicated. The drawing is based on the air view on the next page showing the site as it is now. One of the difficulties of planning a southern approach to St. Paul's has always been the position of the College of Arms in Queen Victoria Street, with which it would be unthinkable to interfere. If the centre line of the new pedestrian way is taken exactly at right-angles to the river, Lord Mottistone admits that it would shave the eastern flank of the College of Arms very closely, but he points out that St. Paul's Cathedral is not parallel to the river, and claims that there is therefore no need for the line to be drawn at right-angles. If a rather wider angle is taken (that is, if the river end of the vista is moved a short way down stream from the position previously given to it) there is space to pass by the College of Arms comfortably. Lord Mottistone's scheme shows a processional approach that is perhaps on too monumental



a scale to suit the traditions of the City of London, in which the architectural drama comes more often from views down narrow alleys, from unexpected glimpses between buildings, and from contrasts of scale, than from formal spatial planning. But that is largely a matter of the detailed treatment. Its great advantage is that the pedestrian way passes almost wholly through bombed sites.



among council houses offered for sale, and that houses sold would be available under hire-purchase arrangements. He was answering a discussion on the sale of council houses during consideration of the Housing Bill by a House of Commons Standing Committee. He said that temporary houses were not suitable for freehold sale, and were not the property of local authorities but of the Government.

Mr. Macmillan added that he wanted to prevent the asking of unreasonable prices, and also wanted to prevent a person buying a council house from taking advantage of value caused by scarcity of houses.

House Interiors Committee Formed

Mr. Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has appointed a committee to consider and report what action can be taken "to increase speed and efficiency in the construction of house interiors." The committee, to be known as the Bailey Committee on House Interiors, will have as its chairman Sir Donald Bailey, inventor of the Bailey bridge.

The Committee will examine the construction of the interior of a house from all points of view, the object being to promote speed and efficiency in construction and to increase the numbers of houses completed.

It will receive evidence on efficient methods on construction and manufacture.

The other members of the committee are: The Dowager Lady Reading; S. Bunton, town planning and industrial consultant; Sir Luke Fawcett, general secretary, Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers; H. J. Manzoni, City Engineer, Birmingham; A. J. Filer, Director-General of Building Materials, MOW; J. H. Forshaw, Chief Architect, MOHLG; and Dr. F. M. Lea, Director of BRS.

CIAM

Summer School in Venice

The summer school for architects and students of the International Congress for Modern Architecture will be held in Venice at the University Institute of Architecture, from September 10 to October 10, 1952. The course will consist of the development of an architectural and urban theme pertaining to an actual problem arising in the town of Venice. This study will be undertaken by the professors on the school Board and their assistants. Lectures will be given by Italian and foreign professors on general subjects. There will also be visits to the monuments of Venice and its neighbourhood.

At the end of the course, a Commission made up of the directors, Alvar Aalto, Le Corbusier, and other eminent architects will make a critical examination of the projects. A certificate testifying that the holder has attended the course will be issued. Every student will receive a personal identification card for free entry to the museums in the town or the Biennial Exhibition. Arrangements will also be made for discounts on the cost of the various activities taking place during the courses (Cinema Festival, Music Festival, theatre).

The entry and attendance fee is fixed at 10,000 lire. Each student must make his own arrangements for travel, board and lodging at his own expense. The secretary's office of the school will arrange to organize accommodation in colleges, with meals either in the colleges or at town restaurants at a cost of not more than 1,500 lire per day. The secretary's office may also reserve suitable accommodation for students in hotels for those who are willing to incur greater expense. Transport expenses for instructive excursions will be met by the school.

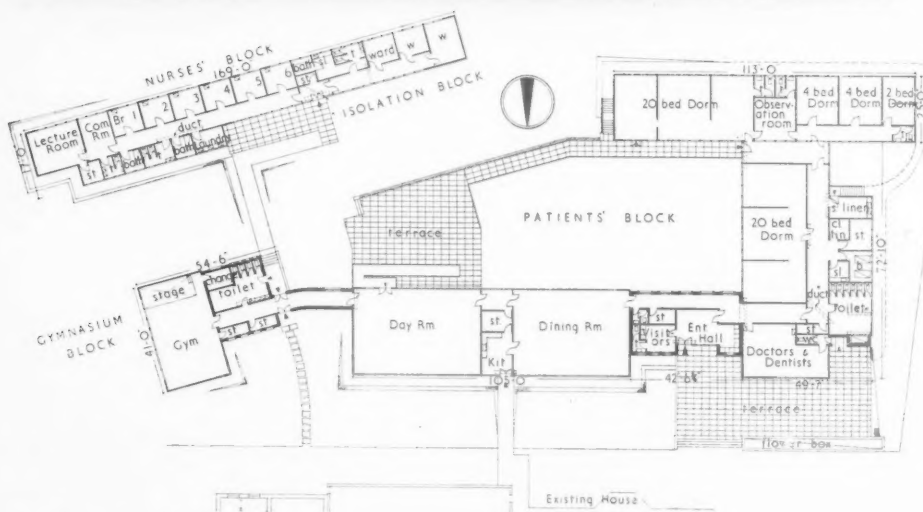
The school is open to students of either

EXTENSIONS TO MUCKAMORE ABBEY MENTAL HOSPITAL



The extensions to the Muckamore Abbey Mental Hospital in Northern Ireland, which were recently opened by the Leader of the Senate, were designed by Houston and Beaumont. The existing house, seen in the top photograph opposite, stands in 192 acres of land and at present accommodates 17 girl patients, while the new buildings, which are the first of a proposed 1,000-bed colony, provide an additional 50 beds, at a cost of approximately £60,000.

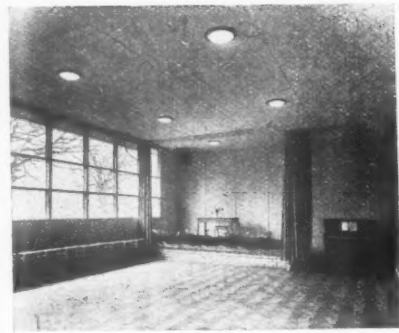
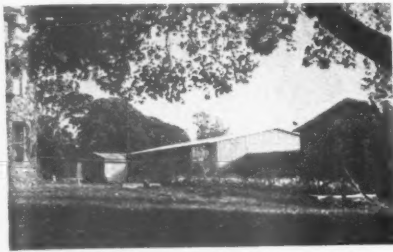
The site is on a lawn sloping away from the old house and surrounded on each side by the old trees of the estate. The various levels have been carefully worked out and ramps have been built where changes of level occur, as these are more suitable than steps for mentally defective children. The photograph above, left, shows the central court from the dormitories, with dining room and day room on the left, gymnasium behind and the isolation



Plan (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' 0")



NORTHERN IRELAND



block and nurses' quarters far right. Bottom left, opposite, is a view in the patients' block showing observation wards and infants' ward, bottom right is the entrance hall and corridor to the day room, above is the recreation room and below is the corridor between recreation room and day room. The buildings are of permanent aluminium construction with a brick plinth. Primrose, grey and venetian red are used on the interior. Contractors H. Laverty & Sons, Ltd. Sub-contractors : page 680.



sex in their last year of architectural study, and to graduate architects who qualified not more than two years ago. Applications for places should be made as soon as possible, through the secretary of the MARS Group, Gontran Goulden, The Building Centre, 26, Store Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C.1. There are also places for those who wish to attend as "listeners." In this category it is possible to attend lectures, take part in visits to monuments, and attend the final critical examination of the plans. The subscription will be 3,000 lire, and students should apply direct to the secretary, Scuola Estiva CIAM, c/o Istituto Universitario di Architettura, Fondamenta Nani 1012, Venezia, Italia. In addition, a copy of the application should be sent to Mr. Goulden. The result of applications will be sent to students not later than July 15.

NORWAY

Design from Britain Exhibition

British manufactured articles in everyday use, chiefly domestic consumer goods, are being shown in a small selective exhibition in Oslo, Norway. The object of the exhibition, which is entitled "Design from Britain," is to enhance the prestige of British goods by showing examples of good design and quality.

About 300 exhibits have been chosen by a committee representing the SIA, the British Council and the COID. They include textiles, furniture, pottery and glass, silverware, cutlery, leather goods, radio receivers, bicycles, wallpapers, posters, packaging and printing. Each exhibit has been lent by its manufacturer and carries a display card giving the name of the firm.

One exhibit which is expected to attract considerable interest is the prototype model of the child's bed designed and made at the Royal College of Art and presented to the Queen for Prince Charles. A small corner of the exhibition creates the atmosphere of a typical English country inn and forms a background to exhibits of bar furniture, bottles, jugs, labelling and other accessories.

The exhibition will later be seen in Bergen and Stavanger.

MURALS

Sites Required

The Edwin Austen Abbey Memorial Trust Fund for Mural Painting in Great Britain has funds at its disposal with which to commission mural paintings, and is anxious to learn from responsible authorities if there are any buildings, old or new, in which these works might be executed. The proposed buildings should be such as are frequently visited by the public. When it is decided what buildings should be chosen the committee of the fund will go on to choose the artist or artists whom they wish to do the work.

Mrs. Abbey, widow of the illustrator and historical painter, Edwin Austen Abbey, left a large sum of money, about £90,000, for a fund in memory of her husband which should be applied by the Royal Academy in giving commissions for mural paintings. At present the members of the committee of the fund are: Mrs. Vanessa Bell, W. Curtis Green, E. Vincent Harris, E. M. O'R. Dickey and Henry Rushbury. Proposals for buildings suitable to receive mural paintings should be sent to the Secretary of the fund, Reginald Blackburn, at 195, Piccadilly, W.1. The closing date for application is June 16, 1952.

ERNEST WATKINS

*The Architect and Current Affairs**COURT RULING ON RIBA STANDARD FORM OF CONTRACT*

It is some time since the provisions of the RIBA standard form of building contract were considered by the Courts; they now have been, in the case of *Amalgamated Building Contractors Ltd. v. Waltham Holy Cross UDC*, recently decided in the High Court. The point at issue was whether the architect under the contract could grant a valid extension of time for completion of the contract at a time when both the agreed date for completion and the date to which he extended it were in the past.

The facts are shortly these. The contract was for the erection of 202 houses and the original date for completion in the contract was February 7, 1948, extended by the architect on February 19, 1948, under Clause 18, to February 7, 1949. Practical completion (under Clause 24) did not take place until 1950, whether in the August or the October being a matter of dispute. Certainly the architect did not certify under Clause 24 for the release of the half of the retention moneys until October 20, 1950. The crux of the case was whether the builders were liable for the penalty under Clause 17 and, if so, from what date? On December, 20, 1950, the architect wrote to the builders purporting to extend the completion date from February 7, 1949, to May 23, 1949, as a result of which the builders would have been under penalty from the last of those two dates. The builders argued that the whole contract had been completed before the date of that letter, and that it was not open to the architect to grant an extension of time for completion, which itself expired before the letter granting it had been written. Their argument was that, in the circumstances there, the extension to be granted must run at least until the date of the letter (by which time, of course, the job was in fact completed). The effect of the builders' argument, if successful, would have been to invalidate the claim for the penalty which the Council proposed to set against the remainder of the retention moneys in hand.

JUDGMENT AGAINST BUILDERS

The Court found that "this purported exercise by the architect of his right to give this extension was, in fact, 'exercised,' which in law he is properly entitled to do." Judgment went against the builders and in favour of the Council.

The author of this article points out that an architect who is asked to prepare plans for the conversion of a building should consider not only the best type of conversion to which the building lends itself, but how the clients pocket may be affected from the point of view of taxation. He explains how conversions may be carried out in such a way that the client will be able to claim tax rebate.

T. J. SOPHIAN

Building Conversion

There are many large houses and buildings which, owing to their size alone, are incapable of single occupation. If any economic use is to be made of them, the only remedy is conversion, such as conversion into flats or maisonettes. An architect is almost invariably consulted, and he is instructed to advise the owner as to the best method of conversion.

In such a case the duties of the architect should not be confined to a consideration of the alterations that will be required from the purely structural point of view. Although it must be asked: "what is the best type of conversion to which the building lends itself?" this should not be the only question to be determined. In how many cases does the architect consider how the client's pocket may be affected from the point of view of taxation?

Buildings which are to be converted will generally be old buildings. With the passage of time many of them have been allowed to fall into a very dilapidated condition. In some instances the dilapidations will have been increased by war damage. The architect should not overlook the point that if the owner were merely to repair the building and make good the dilapidations, he would be entitled to a substantial rebate of income tax known as excess maintenance relief under Schedule A. In planning the reconstruction of the building, the architect should ensure, if possible, that this relief will not be lost to his client. And it will be lost if the effect of the alterations is to cause the original building to lose its identity, and to be transformed into new entities consisting of the flats or maisonettes.

Let us examine the nature of excess maintenance relief, in order to understand it. Where a building is assessed for the purpose of Schedule A tax, the annual value, arrived at by deter-

mining the rack-rent, i.e., the gross assessment, is in general reduced by an allowance for repairs. This allowance is called the "authorized reduction," and is fixed by statute. It varies according to the amount of the assessment. Where the assessment is between £40 and £100, the allowance is one-fifth of the amount of the assessment; where it exceeds £100, it is £20 plus one-sixth of the excess of the assessment over £100.

VALUATIONS

Present-day valuations go back to before the war because of the postponement of the quinquennial re-valuation, and these old valuations cannot be altered, unless the identity or character of the building is changed. This, accordingly, is another reason for securing that the alterations should not alter the identity or the character of the building. Once the identity is lost, the Inland Revenue authorities will be given the opportunity of making a new assessment, and for this purpose one can be sure that they will not hesitate to take full advantage of the altered conditions and of the enormous increase in rents that has taken place.

But, to return to the repairs allowance and the question of excess maintenance relief, it is obvious that if an old and dilapidated building is to be put into a proper state of repair, a considerable amount of expenditure will be necessary. This will exceed by many times the small pittance represented by the ordinary repairs allowance. In such a case the provisions as to excess maintenance relief contained in the former, Rule 8, of No. V of Schedule A of the Income Tax Act, 1918, will come into operation, and relief could be obtained each year in respect of the average amount expended on repairs during the five preceding years. To take a simple example: suppose that the repairs allowance in respect of a building is £50 per annum, and that £2,000 had had to be spent in repairs in a single year. That sum of £2,000 would be spread over five years, making £400 in each year. Subject to certain adjustments and conditions, which we need not discuss, each year a sum of £350 (£400 minus £50) could be claimed by way of excess maintenance relief.

It should also be noted that the effect of the repairs usually will enable the property to be let at an enhanced rental, far in excess of the Schedule A assessment, so that there will be excess rents chargeable to tax, against which the excess maintenance relief can be taken into account.

If this is the nature of excess maintenance relief, the architect can help in its preservation by securing that the alterations are such that the *identity of the building is not destroyed*.

One must concede that it is not an

easy matter to devise plans of a conversion which will attain the desired object and yet prevent a loss of identity. But attention may be drawn to the following points which may be useful as a guide. What has to be remembered is that even though a building may be split up and let out to different persons, it is the comprising building which still remains the unit for the purpose of assessment to Schedule A; provided, of course, that the separate parts have not become distinct identities. Thus, in the case of blocks of flats, each block of flats having a separate entrance from the street will be regarded as a single unit for Schedule A purposes. It follows that in making plans for conversion, one should secure, if possible, that all the maisonettes or flats in the building are approached by one common entrance and staircase.

Next point of importance is the extent of the physical separation of each part of the building from the others. If you completely cut off one part, which in its previous original state was not completely cut off, then it is likely that a separate and distinct entity will be created. But if the building in its original state had dividing doors between the parts which you desire to make into different flats or maisonettes, it would be unnecessary to take down the doors and brick up the openings. Some temporary and easily removable type of barrier might help to avoid the conclusion that separate entities had been created and that the excess maintenance relief was lost.

In a recent and unreported case of a house which, after some alterations, was let in separate tenements, the lessee repaired the building and added a staircase connecting the first and second floors internally, so as to make these floors a self-contained maisonette. In addition, other work was done so as to make the third floor into a self-contained flat. The cubic capacity of the house remained virtually unaltered, the number of rooms remained the same after the alterations, and the structure of the house was not interfered with. The taxpayer contended that there had been, at any rate, no substantial alteration in the layout and that its identity had not been altered. In this contention he succeeded, and it was accordingly held that he was still entitled to the excess maintenance relief in respect of the cost of the repairs.

In conclusion, one further point of practical advice may be given. Let the architect produce plans, if possible, which will still preserve the identity of the building, and let the owner, if he does not desire to take any risk in the matter, have those plans submitted in advance to the Inspector of Taxes so as to get his assurance and agreement that the building will not lose its identity as the result of the alterations contemplated, and that the excess maintenance relief will be preserved.

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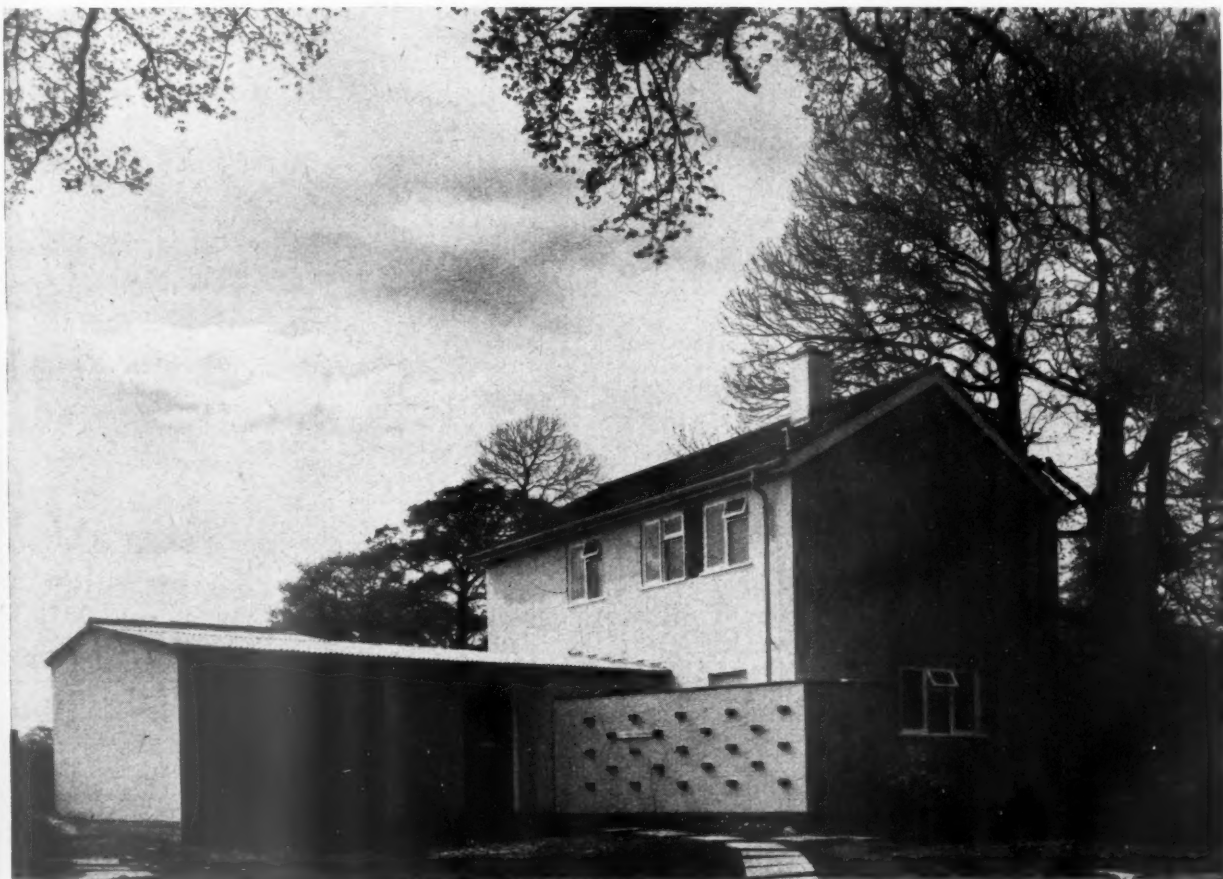
HOUSE

in HAWTHORN LANE, COVENTRY

designed by DONALD GIBSON, city architect and planning officer; F. B. POOLEY, deputy city architect and planning officer; E. C. TORY, chief assistant architect; G. GREY and HANS VON KANEL, assistant architects

The experimental house recently completed in Coventry in simple traditional construction aims at a reduction in erection costs without lowering design standards. After a long study of the problem of re-designing housing accommodation to suit contemporary ways of living, the conclusion was reached that new designs now incorporated in Amendment No. 2 to the Housing Manual, 1949, are the best solutions for reducing the cost of traditional plan and construction methods.

View looking north-west, with the garage on the left.





HOUSE

in HAWTHORN LANE, COVENTRY

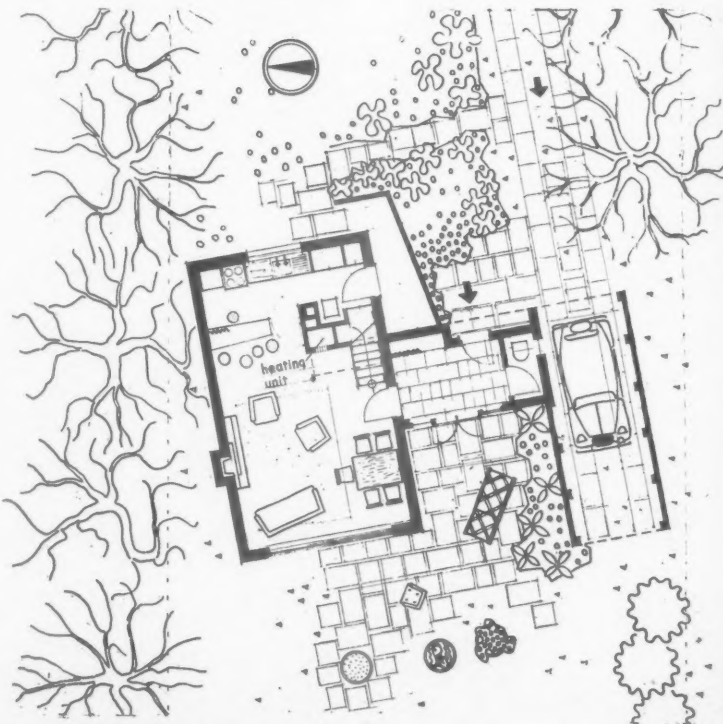
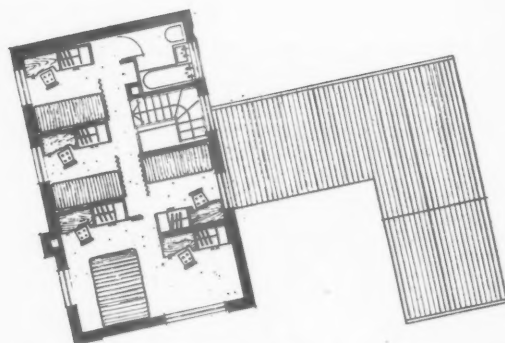
designed by DONALD GIBSON, city architect

Above left, living room looking towards stairs and kitchen. Above, stairs and bedroom from first floor landing.

PLAN.—An attempt has been made to design a dwelling unit in which both sleeping and living space encourage flexibility in the pattern of living. It is felt by the architects that this is preferable to the rigidity imposed by a scaled-down version of the traditional house originally designed for middle-class life at the end of the last century. The staircase leads directly from the large ground floor living space to the first floor sleeping space, which has been treated as a single area capable of division into private cubicles by means of prefabricated furniture units consisting of combined cupboard, table and screen. Each is sectional and can be dismantled and re-assembled by the family as its needs change. This system makes the maximum use of the first floor possible at all times and takes full advantage of the whole house heating system by enabling the occupants to make more use of the bedrooms in cold weather than is possible in a traditional house. The amount of bedroom furniture required to be purchased is also cut to a minimum.

CONSTRUCTION.—There is a solid concrete ground floor. 11-in. cavity brick walls, faced with sand lime bricks, form the interior wall surface to the ground floor. The house is 16 ft. wide and the first floor joists spanning this distance are steel lattice construction in a specially strengthened section.

FINISHES.—Walls are fair faced brick on the ground floor and plastered on the first floor. The ground floor is tiled.

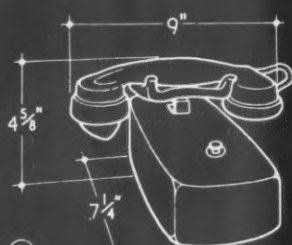


Ground and first floor plans (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' 0")

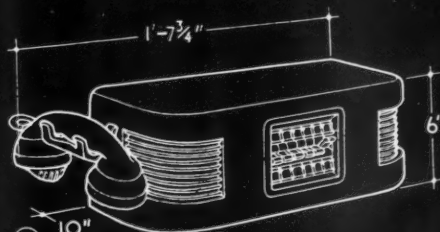


*n looking
kitchen.
room from*

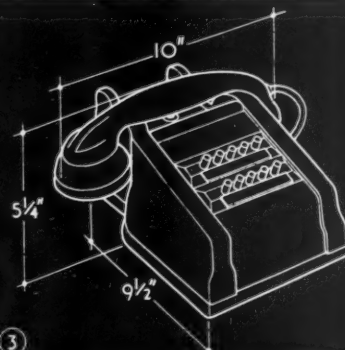




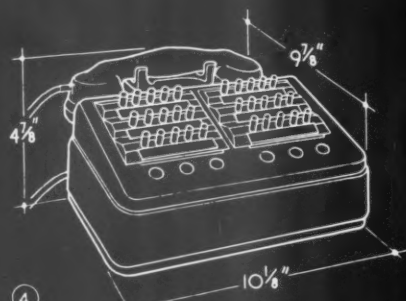
① private handset: single-line Modern Minor desk type (wall type also available)



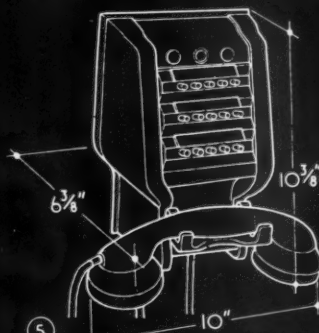
② loudspeaking master station



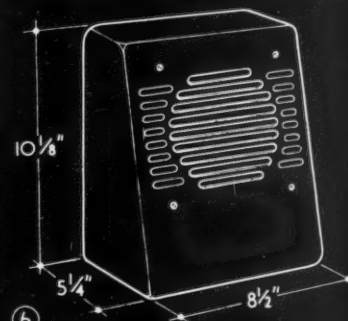
③ private handset: push-button desk type



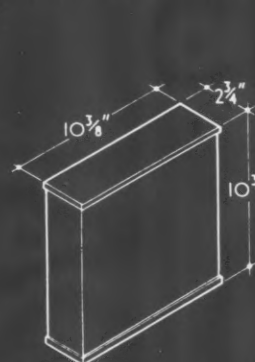
④ private handset: push-button desk type sub-station



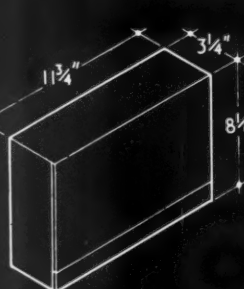
⑤ private handset: push-button wall type



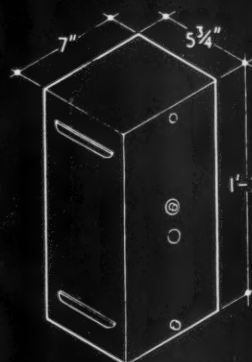
⑥ Telesound loudspeaker: wall or desk type



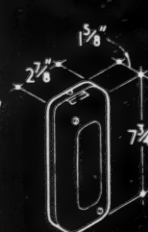
distribution box
CONTROL EQUIPMENT.



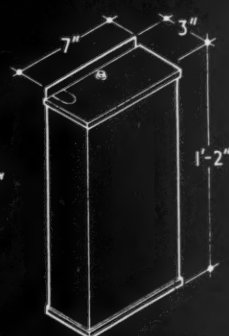
power unit



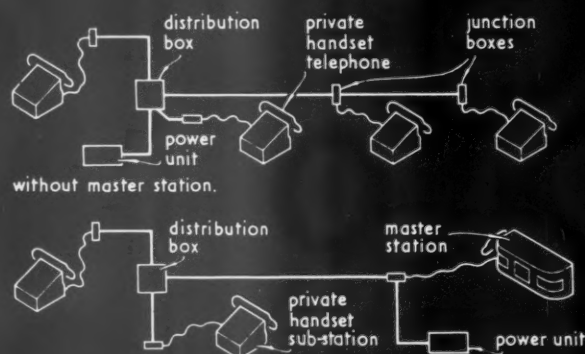
Telesound amplifier



junction box



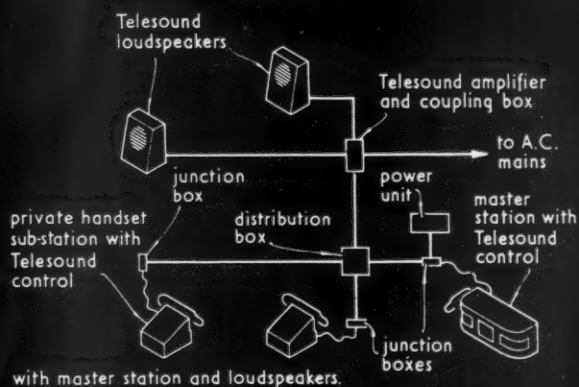
Telesound coupling box



without master station.

with master station.

INTERCOMMUNICATING SYSTEMS: TYPICAL INSTALLATIONS.



with master station and loudspeakers.

MODERNPHONE- LOUDSPEAKING, INTERCOMMUNICATING TELEPHONES AND AMPLIFIED LOUDSPEAKING SYSTEMS.

Manufacturer: Modern Telephones (Great Britain) Ltd.

37.H10 · MODERNPHONE · LOUDSPEAKING, INTERCOMMUNICATING TELEPHONES AND AMPLIFIED LOUDSPEAKING SYSTEMS

This Sheet describes various Modernphone intercommunicating telephone systems available for large or small buildings, or groups of buildings, and the provision that should be made for them when planning new buildings.

Instruments and Systems

The diagrams at the top of the face of this Sheet show six typical instruments and the following notes describe their function and the types of system for which they are designed. Three typical installations are shown in the diagrams on the lower part of the face of the Sheet.

(1) *Modern Minor private handset push-button instrument*: This instrument, which is available as a wall or desk type, is suitable for small installations in private houses, small offices, etc. Two instruments can be connected to each other so that by lifting the handset of one instrument and pressing a button the other instrument can be called. A buzzer sounds at the called instrument where the handset need only be lifted to establish connection with the caller. Installations are limited to six instruments.

Any number of instruments may be connected to a switchboard at a hotel reception desk, hall porter's room, etc., but there must be an operator at the switchboard. Contact between instruments is made through the switchboard.

(2) *Loudspeaking master station*: This instrument, designed for the use of executives, is generally connected to a number of fully intercommunicating staff instruments. The user talks in a normal voice—if desired, several feet away from the instrument—and without having to hold a telephone handset receives replies clearly and naturally through the loudspeaker. He calls any staff station by depressing the key adjacent to the name of the station required and his calls are completely secret and have priority over all other calls. A call from a staff station to the master station sounds a buzzer and illuminates the caller's name adjacent to the key connecting the master to the caller. The user of the master station may hold a conference by calling more than one other instrument and he can, if desired, switch off the loudspeaker and use a private handset or earphone.

(3), (4) and (5) *Five to thirty-line private handset push-button instruments*: These instruments are suitable for large installations in offices, works, etc. Direct contact may be made between any two instruments in the system without an operator and there can be as many conversations in progress at the same time as there are pairs of instruments in the system. Each instrument is equipped with buttons which are marked with names corresponding to the departments or names of the persons to which they connect. A call is made by lifting the handset and depressing the button marked with the name of the person required. A buzzer sounds at the called instrument where the handset need only be lifted to establish connection with the caller. It is possible also to hold a conference by calling more than one instrument.

(6) *Telesound*: This can be used with any combination of the above systems. It provides the additional facility of loudspeakers which broadcast calls from any telephone in the system. The loudspeakers can pick up a reply and transmit it back to the caller thereby enabling conversations to take place with individuals who cannot stop work to reply to a call on a telephone handset. The system may also be used for paging (Telepage).

Capacity of the Equipment

The systems described above are available for installations consisting of from 2 to 60 points, including up to six executive loudspeaking master stations. Installations of larger capacity can be provided and additional points can be added as and when required.

Source of Supply

The systems operate from power units connected to an A.C. mains supply or from dry batteries (which have a life of approximately two years).

Central Control Equipment

Apart from the small coupling box and amplifier required for those installations equipped with Telesound no central control equipment, automatic or otherwise, is required.

Distribution

Means whereby cables and distribution equipment may be installed conveniently and without damage to the premises should be provided within the structure of the building, and should be designed to allow for vertical and horizontal distribution. The drawings in the centre of the face of the Sheet show the dimensions of the various units of equipment. A plan showing the complete distribution should be prepared.

Vertical distribution: Continuous vertical ducts, chases or the like should be provided, terminating on each floor in an accessible recess large enough to house the necessary distribution equipment.

A duct or chase 6 in. wide by 2 in. deep will allow sufficient space for certain other essential services to be included.

Main horizontal distribution: Main horizontal cabling may be carried along corridors under floors, in detachable skirtings, or in ducts or chases provided in walls or floors. The latter should be provided with removable covers and terminate at one of the vertical distribution recesses.

Subsidiary horizontal distribution: This may include the use of picture rails, conduit hidden in walls and ducts in the floors or at skirting level.

Maintenance

The equipment is supplied and maintained in Great Britain and Ireland by the manufacturers.

Compiled from information supplied by:

Modern Telephones (Great Britain), Limited.

Address: 101, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.
Telephone: Museum 9192.
Telegrams: Motec, London.

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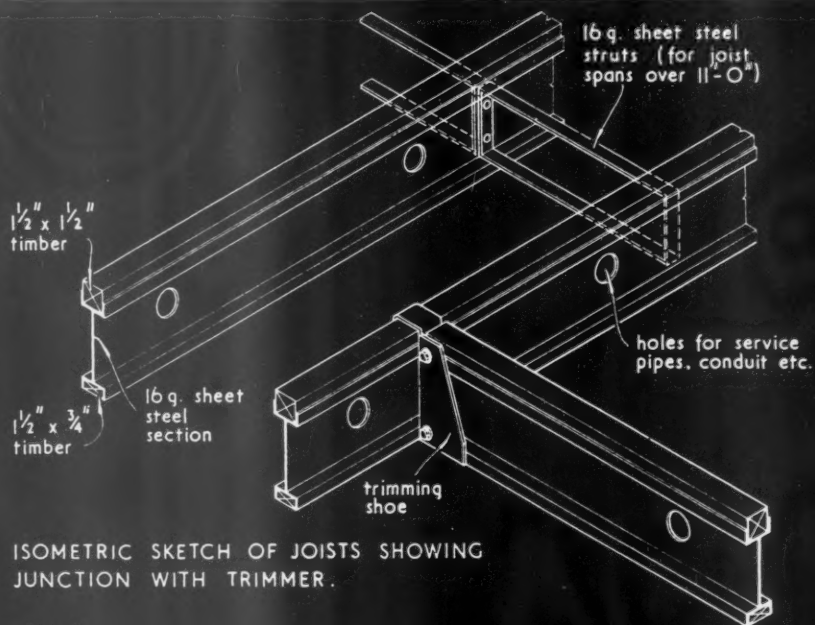
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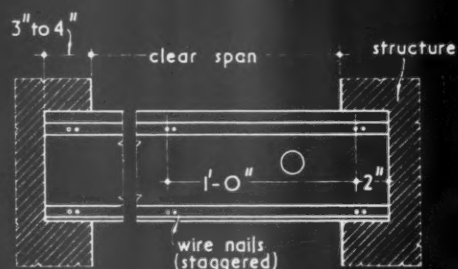
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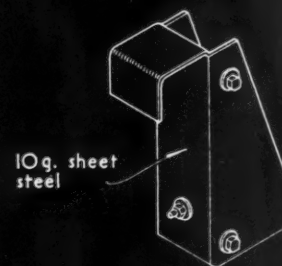
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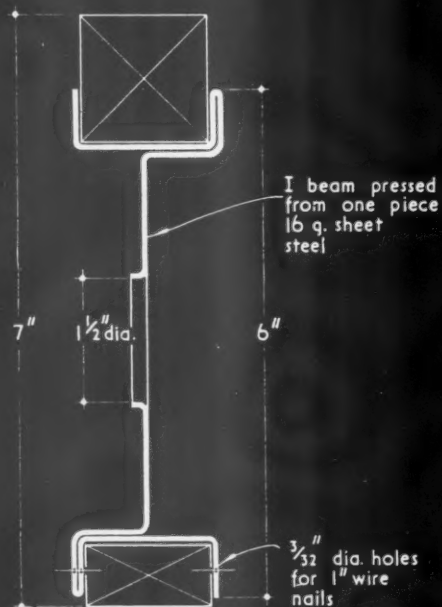
ISOMETRIC SKETCH OF JOISTS SHOWING JUNCTION WITH TRIMMER.



SIDE ELEVATION OF JOIST.



DETAIL OF TRIMMING SHOE.



VERTICAL SECTION THRO' JOIST.
scale 1/2 full size

code number	clear span (ft. and in.)	distributed load (lb.)	safe loads		
			equivalent load (lb./sq. ft.) for joists at centres:		
			1'-2"	1'-4"	1'-6"
J50	4-4 to 4-6	850	162	141	126
J56	4-10 to 5-0	850	146	127	113
J60	5-4 to 5-6	850	132	116	103
J66	5-10 to 6-0	850	121	106	94
J70	6-4 to 6-6	820	108	94	84
J76	6-10 to 7-0	820	100	87	78
J80	7-4 to 7-6	820	94	82	73
J86	7-10 to 8-0	820	87	76	68
J90	8-4 to 8-6	820	83	72	64
J96	8-10 to 9-0	820	78	68	60
J100	9-4 to 9-6	810	73	64	56
J106	9-10 to 10-0	810	69	60	54
J110	10-4 to 10-6	810	66	57	51
J116	10-10 to 11-0	810	63	55	49
J120	11-4 to 11-6	810	60	52	47
J126	11-10 to 12-0	810	58	50	45
J130	12-4 to 12-6	810	55	48	43
J136	12-10 to 13-0	810	53	46	41
J140	13-4 to 13-6	810	51	45	40

TABLE SHOWING SAFE LOADS.

20.C2 · BEACON · PRESSED STEEL FLOOR JOIST

This Sheet describes the Beacon pressed steel floor joist, which incorporates timber battens for fixing floors and ceilings.

Construction

The joist is made in I form, as shown on the face of the Sheet, from one piece of 16 gauge sheet steel with a channel provided at the top and bottom to take the timber battens, which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. respectively. The web of the joist is pierced at 1 ft. centres by holes $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter for the purpose of accommodating conduits and piping: special cut-outs may be made if required. The battens are fixed at 1 ft. intervals by 1 in. nails (staggered).

Size

The overall size of the joist is 7 in. including the timber battens. The steel section itself measures 6 in. overall.

Applications

The joists are primarily designed as floor and ceiling joists and fulfil the same function as traditional timber joists.

Fixing

The ends of the joists must have a bearing of 3 to 4 in. on the structure. Special brackets are supplied for connecting to steelwork.

Trimming shoe: Loose trimming shoes, which may be bolted to the end of any joist, are available for fixing cross members as shown in the drawings on the face of the Sheet.

Struts: Pressed steel struts $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep and cut from 16 gauge sheet, are supplied for joists over 11 ft. in span.

Nailing to battens: The top and bottom timber battens enable floors and ceilings to be fixed in the normal way by nailing.

Loading

A table showing safe total loads for various clear spans of joist is given on the face of the Sheet. The load at maximum span complies with loads specified in B.S. Code of Practice CP 3, Chapter V: 1944 Loading.

Finish

The steelwork of the joist is finished with one coat of red oxide primer. The timber, which is fitted after the steel is primed, may, if required, be treated with preservative.

Further Information

The manufacturer maintains a technical department which is prepared to advise on technical problems dealing with this subject.

Compiled from information supplied by:

John Thompson Beacon Windows Ltd.

Head Office: Beacon Works, Wolverhampton.

Telephone: Bilston 41121 (20 lines).

Telegrams: Windows, Wolverhampton.

London Office: Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Telephone: Temple Bar 3216 (3 lines).

Telegrams: Thompson, Temple Bar 3216.

Birmingham Office: Herald Chambers, Martineau Street, Birmingham, 2.

Telephone: Midland 1072.

Manchester Office: Deansgate House, 274, Deansgate, Manchester, 3.

Telephone: Deansgate 6151.

Glasgow Office: 79, West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

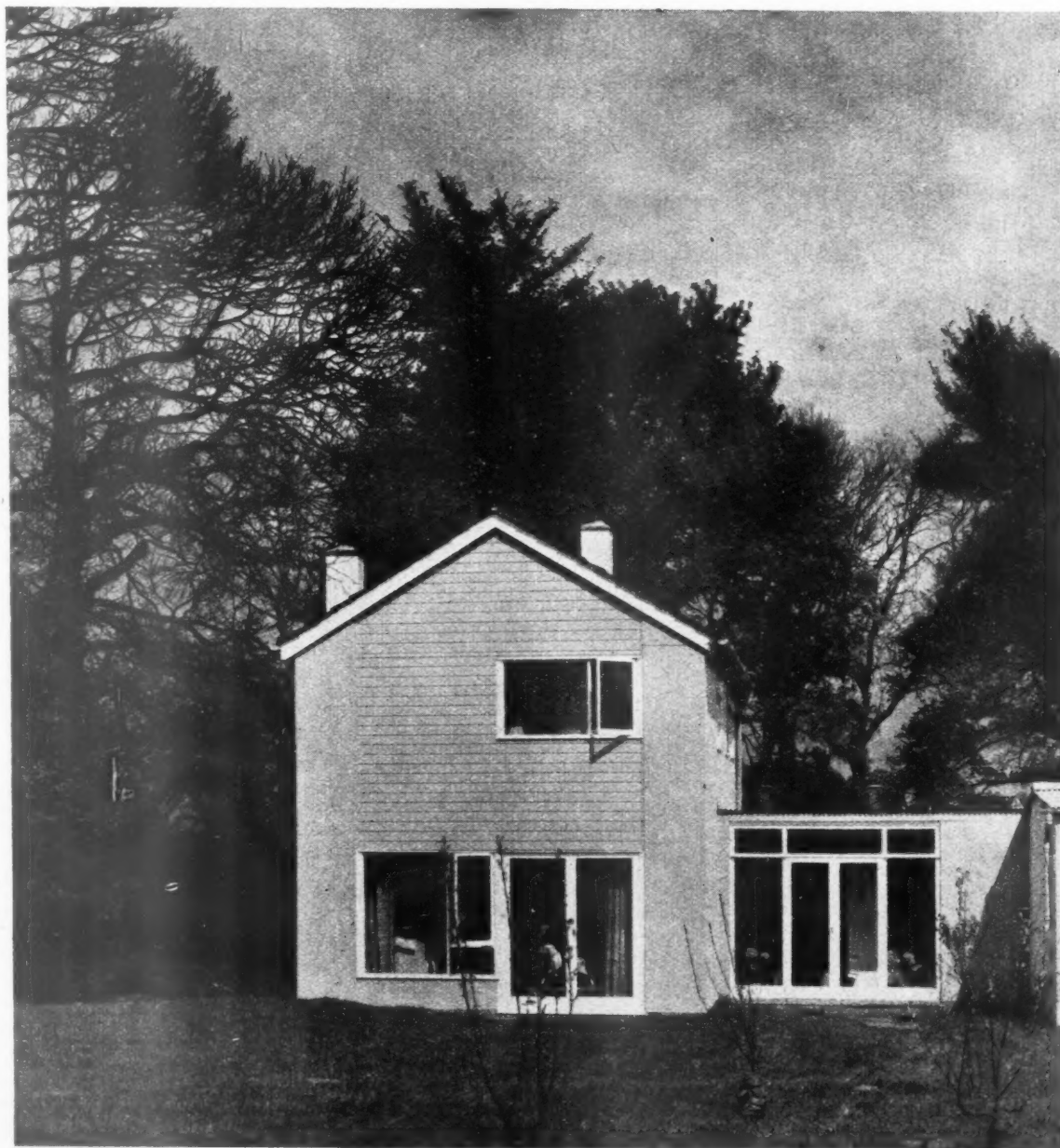
Telephone: Douglas 3983.

SERVICES.—Whole house heating is provided by a hot air circulating system placed in the staircase and this is fed from an ordinary domestic boiler. It is estimated that the cost of this type of house, if built on a large scale without a garage and with certain other economies, would be in the region of £1,000. It is proposed to investigate the possibility of building this type of dwelling as a multi-storey structure with a simple RC frame. It is thought that if twelve-storey development of this type was carried out the cost per dwelling unit, including lifts and central heating, would be about £1,400. The prototype cost is £1,660, including all built-in furniture.

The general contractors were S. A. Eyden. For sub-contractors, see page 680.



Above, the living room, looking towards the garden. Below, view from the garden looking north-east.

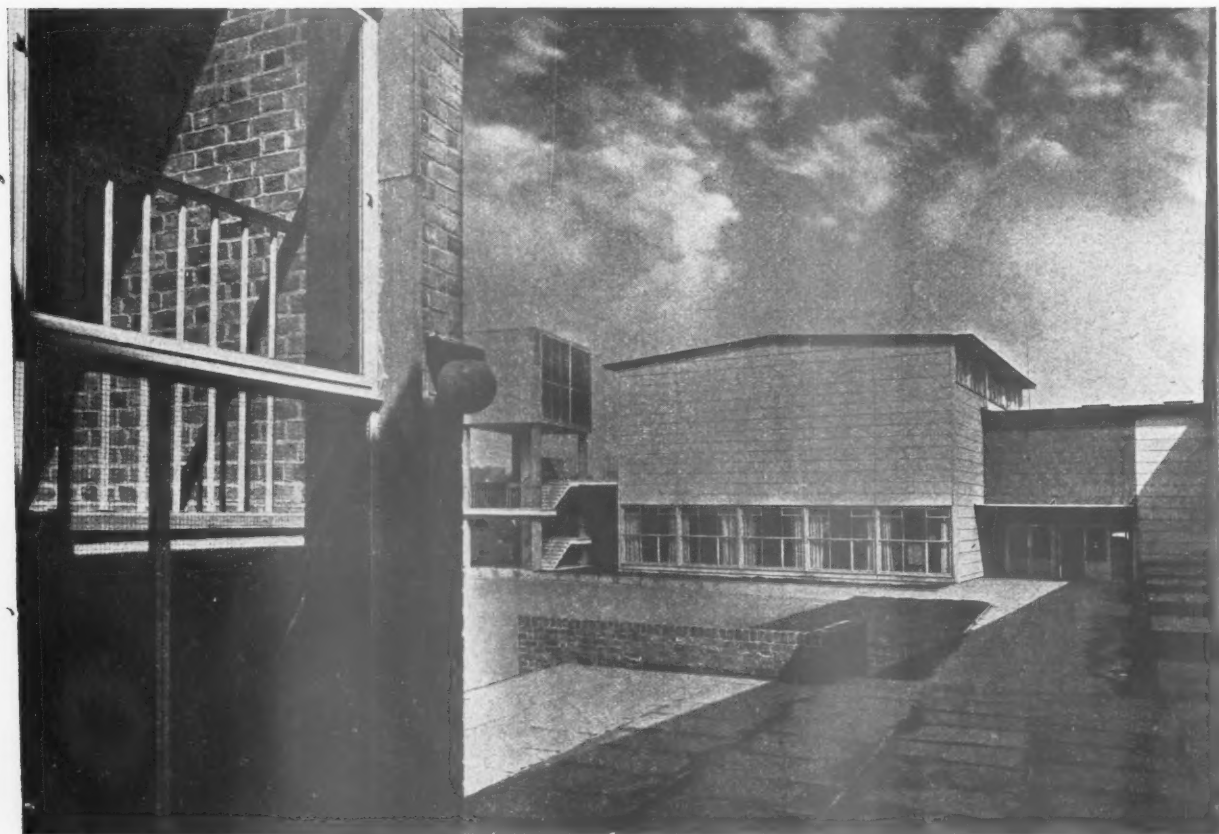


PRIMARY SCHOOL

for the London County Council in NAIRNE GROVE, DENMARK HILL, S.E.24
designed by ROBERT MATTHEW, architect to the council; J. L. MARTIN, deputy
architect to the council; S. HOWARD, schools' architect; F. G. WEST, assistant schools'
architect; A. F. HORSFALL, assistant architect-in-charge; J. CAIRNS, assistant

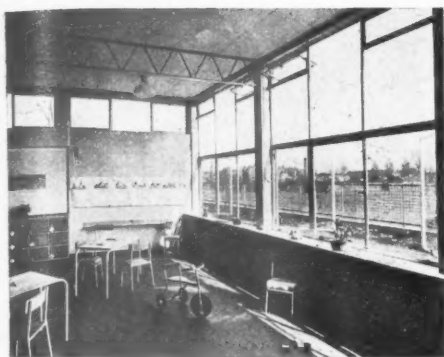
The Bessemer Grange primary school in south-east London has been built to accommodate 600 children from the new housing estate built on land originally owned by Sir Henry Bessemer, the famous engineer and inventor. The site is long and narrow, on an east-west axis, and overlooks playing fields to the south. There are fine oak trees which have been retained, and the site originally contained an ornamental lake and grotto.

Looking north-east at the dining hall and main entrance.



*Above,
Right, &
infants'
courts,
fields.
room on*





Above, a typical infants' classroom. Right, a view looking north-east at the infants' classrooms and open teaching courts, which face south over playing fields. Below, junior head teacher's room on the first floor.

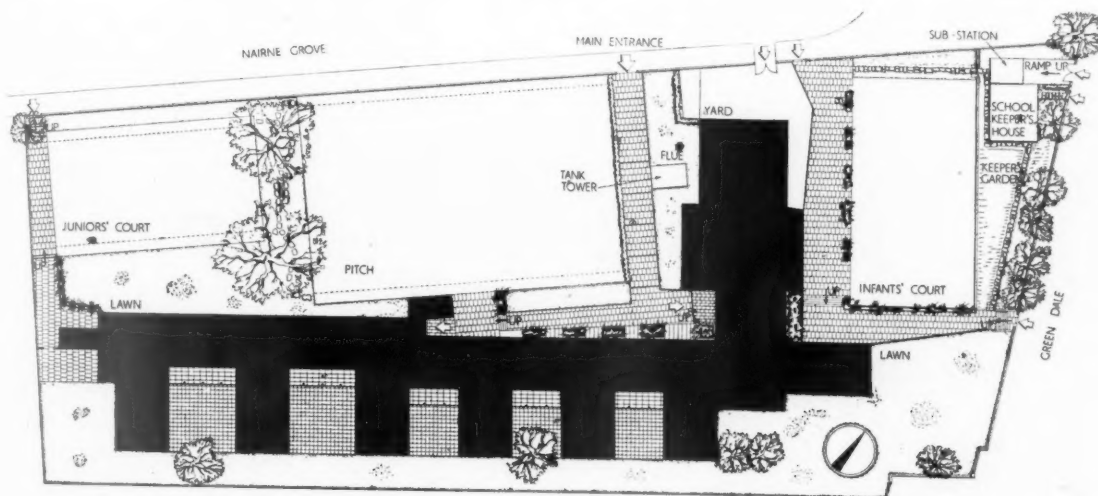


PLAN.—The school is planned for 280 infants and 320 juniors, with dining accommodation for 70 per cent. of the pupils. The ground floor contains the infants' department, with classrooms facing south and open teaching courts, shielded on three sides. The first floor junior classrooms have a similar view over playing fields. The infants' department has

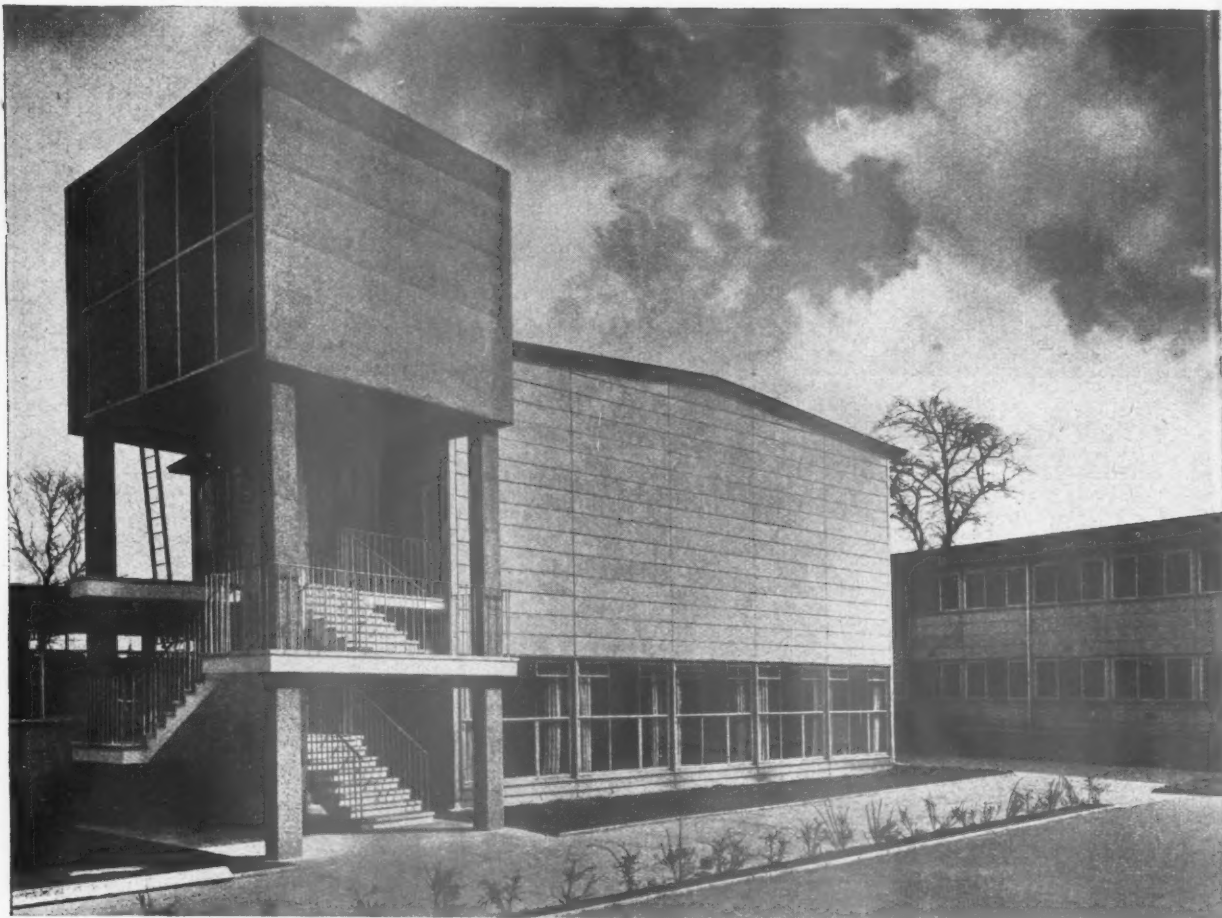
open corridor cloakrooms and the junior cloakrooms are adjacent to staircases, for easy access. Most of the lavatories are on the ground floor, easily accessible from the playgrounds.

CONSTRUCTION.—The frame is of light welded, galvanized steel and the walls have an outer skin of

(Continued on page 672)



Site plan

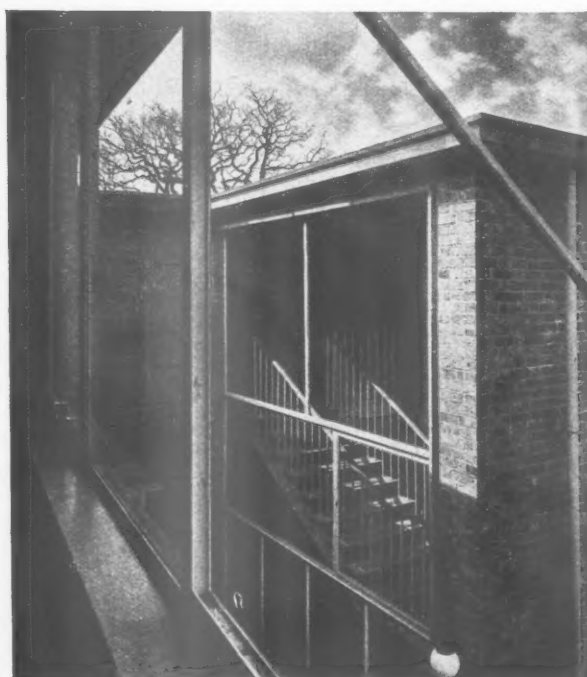
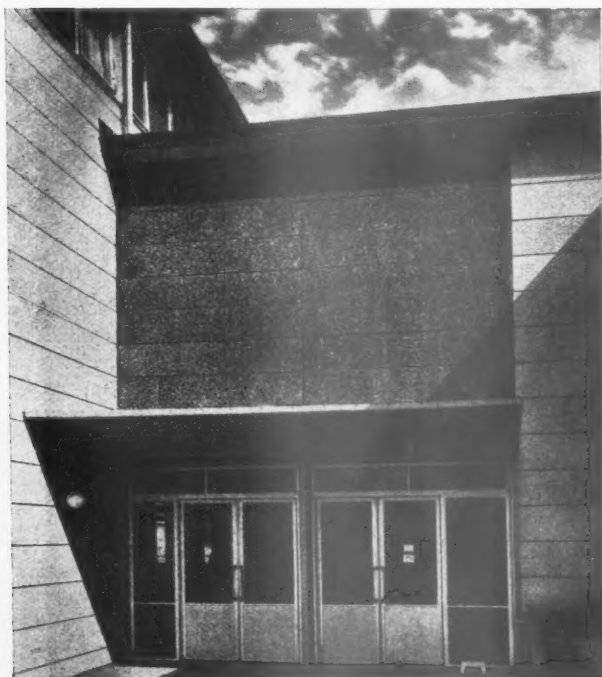


PRIMARY SCHOOL

in NAIRNE GROVE, LONDON, S.E.24

designed by ROBERT MATTHEW, architect to the LCC

Above, looking east with the tank tower on the left and dining hall, with junior assembly hall above, in the centre. Below left, the main entrance. Below, staircase tower on the north-west facade.

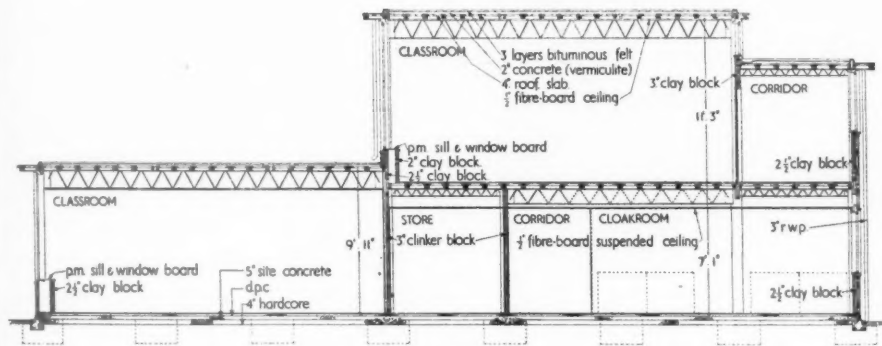
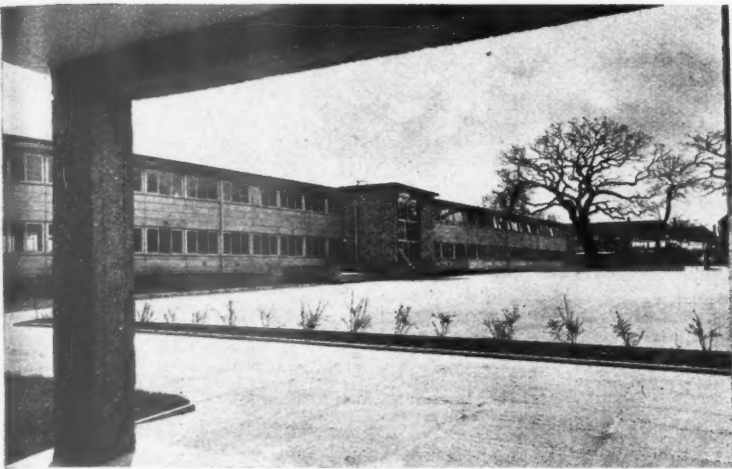


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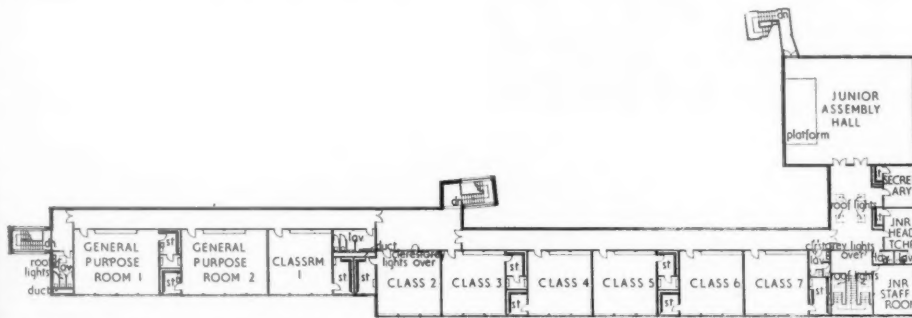
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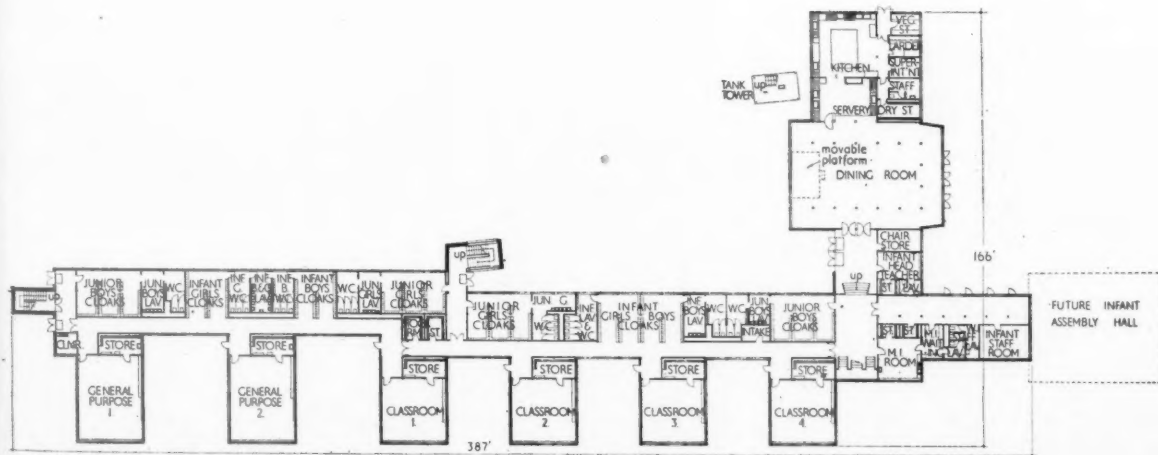


Cross section through classroom wing (Scale: $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1' 0''$)

Above left, the north-west facade of the classroom wing seen from under the tank tower. Above, view looking east across the playground.



First floor plan



Ground floor plan (Scale: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1' 0''$)



PRIMARY SCHOOL

in NAIRNE GROVE, LONDON S.E.24

designed by ROBERT MATTHEW, architect to the LCC



(Continued from page 669)

concrete slabs faced with white spar and red or grey granite and an inner skin of molar blocks. Floors and roofs are of precast concrete.

FINISHES.—The red and grey granite faced concrete slabs are used at the main entrance and in open air teaching courts; elsewhere white spar units with horizontal joints are used. The concrete of the tank tower is bush hammered. Staircases are constructed of yellow stock brickwork with window surrounds of precast stone. Internal finishes include fibre board ceilings in 2-ft. panels, floors finished with cork tiles in corridors, linoleum in classrooms, wood blocks in assembly halls, terrazzo on the main staircase, and reconstructed York stone in the entrance hall and on other stairs. Panels of strong colours are used on walls in circulation spaces, and white and light grey are the colours used in classrooms. Doors and lockers are of natural gaboon mahogany. There are patterned wallpapers on the staircase walls and in the main entrance hall.

SERVICES.—Heating in classrooms and halls is by hot air, thermostatically controlled, and elsewhere there are radiators. The boiler room below the kitchen has automatically stoked boilers. All plumbing services are carried in ducts.

The general contractors were Kent & Sussex, Contractors, Ltd. For sub-contractors, see page 680.

Top left, looking down the main staircase into the entrance hall. Above left, first floor corridor from main staircase landing. Below left, the dining room with gymnastic equipment in position. Below, the first floor junior assembly hall.



TECHNICAL SECTION

The letter by the Timber Development Association on page 657 of this issue is timely. It emphasizes the difficulty of attempting to pin down the real trend of costs at any given time in a period of instability. Wearing sackcloth, and liberally sprinkled with ashes, the Technical Editor notes that the market for softwood carcassing is very different from what it was a year ago. Today, stocks in producers' hands are rising and fears are even being expressed of a fall in consumption and the emergence of a surplus. This, from the point of view of building in general, is all to the good. Unfortunately, it is characteristic of Europe's timber trade that there are frequent peaks and depressions.

It seems that our article on floor costs on April 3, this year, may have appeared at a time when carcassing timber was just coming over the peak. The question of "U" values for ground floors is one which has to be thrashed out elsewhere. The values quoted in the article are those accepted by the leading authorities in the heating world, and the author confesses to a hatred of the conditions giving rise to hot heads and cold feet. As regards noise, some people value quiet and others don't mind noise. The fact that some floors are noisy and others are relatively quiet is all that was stated in the article.

R. FITZMAURICE

15 MATERIALS: APPLIED FINISHES AND TREATMENTS

paint: changing techniques

This week's special article

The number preceding the week's special article or survey indicates the appropriate subject heading of the Information Centre to which the article or survey belongs. The complete list of these headings is printed from time-to-time. To each survey is appended a list of recently-published and relevant Information Centre items. Further and earlier information can be found by referring to the index published free each year.

In the article that follows, the problems which attend users of paints ready-mixed by the manufacturer are discussed. It is pointed out that the wide variety of new types of paint, coupled with the lack of adequate technical data, often makes the use of tinned paint hazardous.

In the past decade a number of new materials and techniques has been introduced into the building industry. Many of these changes were obviously important and have been quickly recognized as necessary additions to the industry's repertoire. Because of their ability to be recognized easily and the now fairly well-known sources of technical information, these obvious developments can be used by the progressive architect with a fair degree of

safety. Such things as prestressing of concrete, the use of prefabricated systems of construction or, less recently, the introduction of sand-lime bricks are examples.

In the rush and scramble of modern practice it is difficult to stand back and view the building industry as a whole, and other, more gradual, changes have not yet been clearly recognized. We have from time to time called attention to some of these:

for example, the quiet disappearance of the suspended ground floor in almost all housing work, has steadily proceeded since the 'thirties, before any question of timber shortage forced the issue. Among the other slow but important alterations which have been occurring is the method of decoration and preservation of buildings with paint.

READY MIXED PAINTS

Many older architects will remember the days when painting was a relatively simple matter of specifying well-trying types of material. In nearly all cases, the job could be left to an experienced craftsman who mixed his materials himself, knew what was in them and how they behaved, so that he could make minor adjustments to suit local conditions. Now almost everything comes out of a tin and is a ready-mixed material delivered by the paint manufacturer. In general, this is a change for the better. The hazards of individual mixing are exchanged for a carefully controlled factory process backed by research workers and facilities for laboratory tests. But, in fact, there are very considerable disadvantages in this system. They affect not only techniques but also aesthetics.

In the case of techniques the main problem is that as everything comes ready-mixed, the painter often does not know the capabilities of the material. Moreover, the paint is mixed by someone who may not know on what background it is going to be used, and who certainly cannot be sure of other conditions, such as the weather at the time of use. This question of the relation of the paint to its background is of far more importance now than it was 20 years ago, because of the recent introduction of a great variety of new materials. It is true there is also a greatly increased range of paint types,

but the problem of ensuring a proper relationship of one to the other remains. The broad effect of this is to throw a much greater responsibility upon the architect, who must now specify his paintwork in greater detail and must give the manufacturer full information about backing materials.

NEW PAINTS IN PRACTICE

From the number of paint failures one hears and reads about it can now be assumed that practical painting guides for the architect are urgently required. The Post-War Study Committee Report on Painting and, very recently, the Code of Practice on Painting (see 15.98, page 677) go a considerable way towards helping the architect to understand the problems and therefore to choose and specify wisely. Unfortunately, the stream of "new" paints seems unending, and it is, in fact, extremely difficult either to determine in which class a new type falls, or to judge its real qualities. Slick demonstrations in the office by smooth-tongued salesmen are sometimes followed by rough experiences on the job and less smooth-tongued comments by all concerned. It seems inevitable that such occurrences will lead to a situation in which the paint manufacturer blames the contractor, while the contractor points to a specification over which he has no control. The architect is used as a buffer and does not know quite what to do about the extra cost which is involved in putting matters right.

LIMITED COLOUR CHOICE FOR ARCHITECTS

A more recent problem, and one which threatens to become serious, is the effect of ready-mixed paint upon the architect's choice of colours. We are all familiar with manufacturers' standard colour cards and it is a mystery

to most of us how such colours came to be chosen. There is also the fairly considerable range of colours in the BSI's lists. Unfortunately, as architects are individualists, their choice of colour, if unrestricted, very rarely coincides with any of the standard colours. Usually this has not been an insurmountable problem, because most manufacturers have been prepared to mix special colours when requested. But, in order to do this, much of the advantage which might come from mass-production at the factory is lost. However, it now appears that a single co-ordinated range of colours to which paint firms would all conform will be produced. It is hoped that such a range will be acceptable to government departments, local authorities and other bodies of similar standing. Undoubtedly, any such standard will cover a fairly wide range of colours and will not necessarily result in a new outbreak of "board school brown" and "government green." Nevertheless, it has its dangers and limitations, and many architects will wish to know if it is going to mean difficulty in obtaining colours outside the standard range. A danger which might follow would be a reversion to the practice of mixing on the site to meet individual requirements. However skilled the craftsmen may be, it is questionable whether such a practice is now safe when only the manufacturer knows what has gone into the ready-mixed paint. What is in one type of paint may not mix satisfactorily with what is in another.

At a time when colour awareness is generally increasing, and much is being done to use colour for improvement of visual conditions (as well as for merely decorative effect) it seems that the whole problem needs reviewing on a very wide basis before decisions are made.

INFORMATION CENTRE

2.123 planning : general VANCOUVER PLANNING

Physical Planning in Vancouver's Government. Harold Spence-Sales and John Bland. (Community Planning Review, pp. 18-28, Feb., 1952. Ottawa.)

Extracts of a report on the organisation of physical planning at Vancouver, Canada. Illustrates the growth of planning in Canada, and of the change from planning by a commission guiding a local authority, to planning by municipal government itself.

4.70 planning : urban and rural TOWN PLAN SUMMARIES

Town Plan Summaries. Nos. 34-41. (Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd.)

The latest series of double-sided summary sheets of post-war planning, produced by Ascot, include most of the notable advisory planning reports by consultants which have been published during the last two years and a preliminary plan by a county authority produced as a basis for the official development plan.

34. A plan for South Wales.
35. The planning of Cambridge.
36. Report of the Clyde Valley Planning Committee.
37. A plan for the development of North-East England.
38. A plan for the future of North Staffordshire.
39. A preliminary plan for Lancashire.
40. Stockport town centre replanned.
41. City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh.

It is to be hoped that this series of uniformly-produced sheets, each of 2 pages of text, accompanied generally by photographs and a diagram plan, will be extended in due course to include the now current series of development plans.

4.71 planning : urban and rural

EARLY AMERICAN TOWN PLANNING

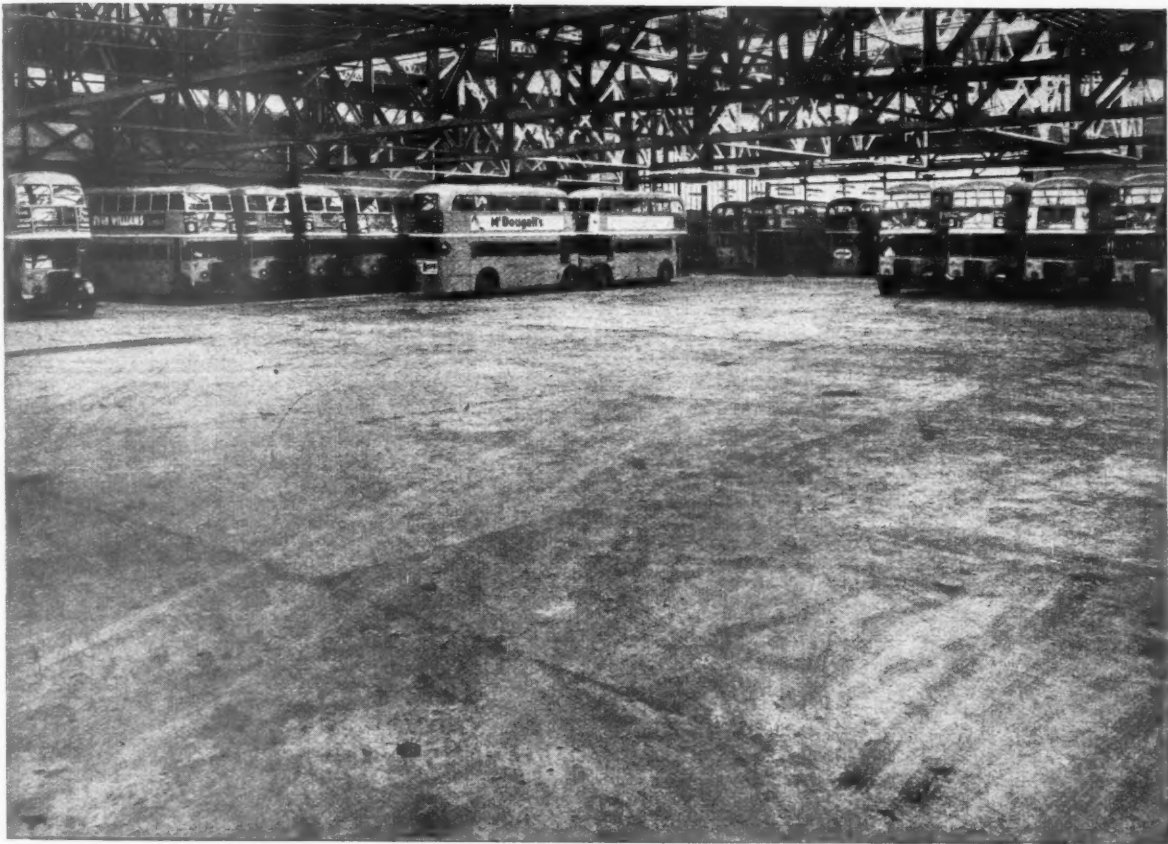
Charleston and Savannah. F. R. Stevenson and C. Feiss. Cleveland, Ohio. E. H. Chapman. *Litchfield and Williamsburg.* C. L. V. Meeks. Thomaston, Maine. S. M. Green. (Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians [USA], pp. 3-31. Dec., 1951.)

A series of first-rate essays on the layout and architecture of six early American towns.

Charleston was founded as the capital of Carolina. The quality of Charleston is not of individually attractive buildings but "street pictures of a townscape more harmonious than is usual even in the older American cities." The most striking feature of the Savannah plan, write the authors, both as laid out . . . and as it still exists, is the pattern of street, lane and square.

The history of Cleveland forms part of a thesis on city planning under mercantile expansion. The city was planted in a wilderness and from the first was intended to be a capital city and to develop into a port and mercantile centre.

The author of Litchfield, Connecticut and Williamsburg, Virginia, describes them as



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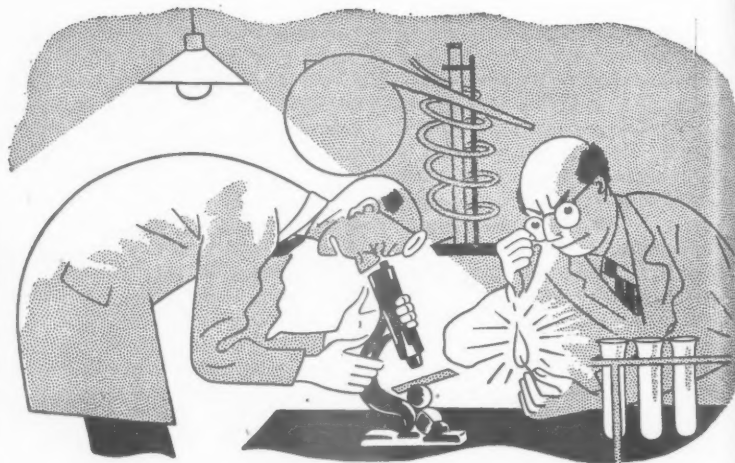
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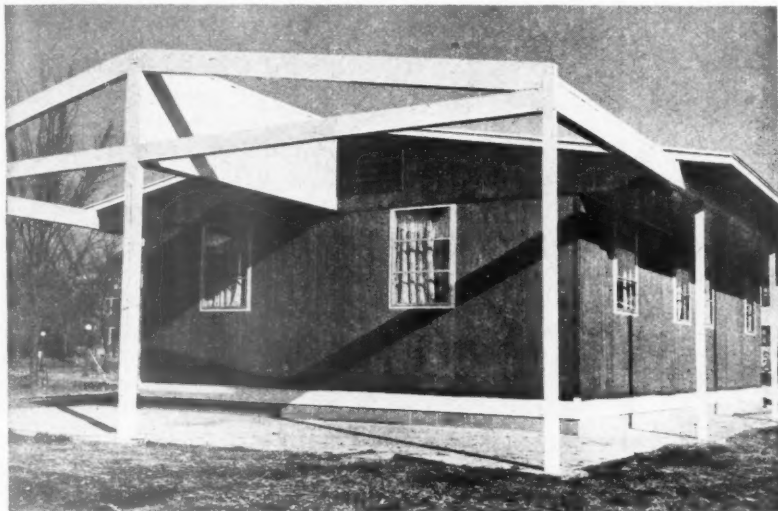
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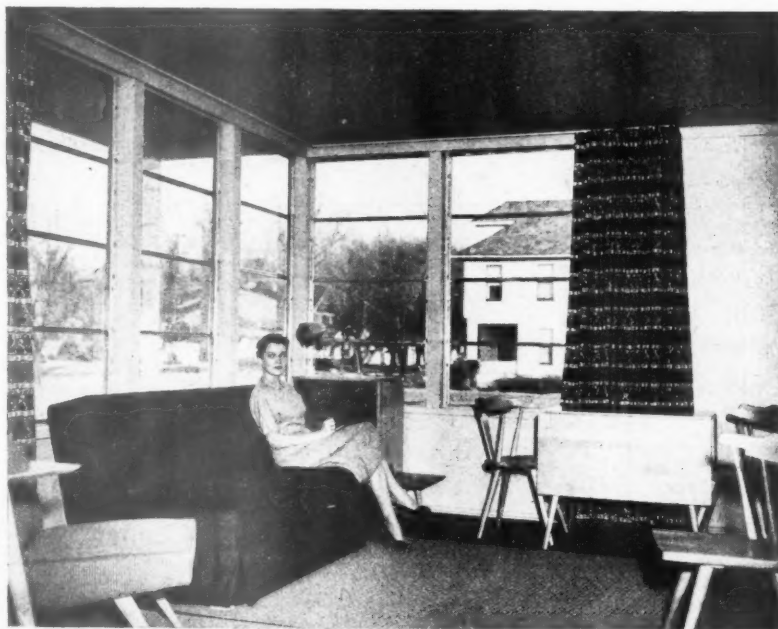
AMERICAN FLEXIBLE SPACE HOUSE

The question of space division in small houses is being investigated at the University of Illinois, by its Small Homes Council. The work is sponsored by the US Government's Housing and Home Finance Agency. It is hoped that the results will enable architects to plan the living space in small houses to suit family needs more accurately.



Members of the faculties of architecture, sociology, anthropology and economics at the university are assisting the Council's research. To begin with, an analysis was made of available housing surveys which dealt with the living requirements of families. This was followed by the Council's own survey to discover the extent to which contemporary living habits and modern equipment had changed family needs in the home. The research covered a selected number of people living in Urbana and Champaign. The accumulated experience is now being studied in a special one-storey house of flexible construction, shown above. The photograph below shows one arrangement for the living-dining area. Over a period of 12 months the house is being occupied

(Continued on page 676.)



eighteenth century towns which "share the qualities of colonial settlements; a minimum of display, a minute dash of monumentality, a humane order."

The fourth essay is about the architecture of Thomaston, Maine; a city which today is still much as it was a century ago.

7.34 practice COPY SHEETS

Zeichenhilfe für Architekten. (Symbol-aids for Architects.) Schneider and Ossenberg. (Julius Hoffman, Stuttgart, Germany. 1951.)

Intended to be traced by draughtsmen, this extraordinary set of 172 sheets consists of drawings, to several scales, of brickwork, stone, tiling, radiators, fruit trees, people, cattle (in plan and elevation!), several pages of designs for north points and a host of other things. It seems very doubtful if architects wish to use such sheets for copying or tracing but it is terrifyingly thorough in its way.

9.26 design: general SHOPS

Ladenbau. (Shops.) Adolf Schuhmacher. (Julius Hoffman, Stuttgart, Germany. 1951.)

Shop design. The book begins with an introduction giving general observations on European and American shopping streets and shops from an historical point of view. The main section of the book consists of brief descriptions, with photographic illustrations, of different types of shop, shop window, display cabinet, lettering and lighting, etc. This is followed by small-scale sketch plans and typical working details. Of limited interest, but may be worth a glance by those specializing in this field.

9.27 design: general BUILDING RESEARCH

Building Research, 1950. DSIR. (HMSO. 4s. 1951.)

Annual report. 68 pp. 20 photographs.

The Annual Reports from BRS seem to be catching up on the time lag which followed the war. As usual, this report, although it does not go into great detail, is well worth reading fully in order to keep abreast of the general trend of investigation. The work previously done at the Thatched Barn and elsewhere by MOW now comes under BRS and a useful improvement in co-ordination should result. A good deal of emphasis is given to the work on plant and also to field studies. The effect of lowering the heights of domestic rooms to 7 ft. 6 in. has been investigated and found to have no ill-effect on health.

14.49 materials: concrete CONCRETE RESEARCH

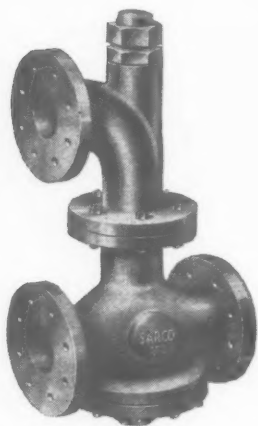
Magazine of Concrete Research. No. 8. (Cement and Concrete Association. 2s. 6d. 1951.)

This issue of the Magazine of Concrete Research contains a number of papers which, though intended primarily for engineers, contain information which may be of some interest to architects who wish to keep informed on technical developments in concrete. There is a paper by E. Freyssinet on "The Deformation of Concrete," and two papers dealing with the compaction of concrete by vibration. One of them, by R. D.

(Continued on page 677.)

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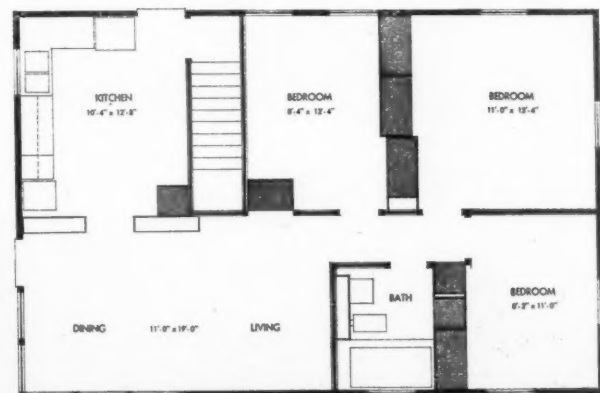
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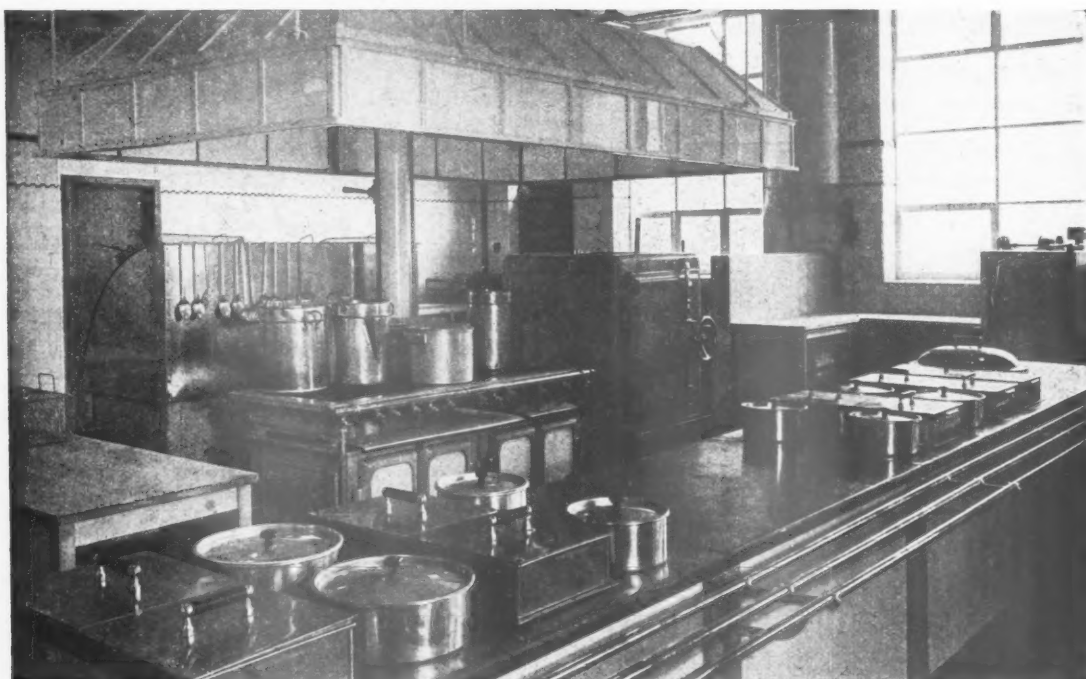
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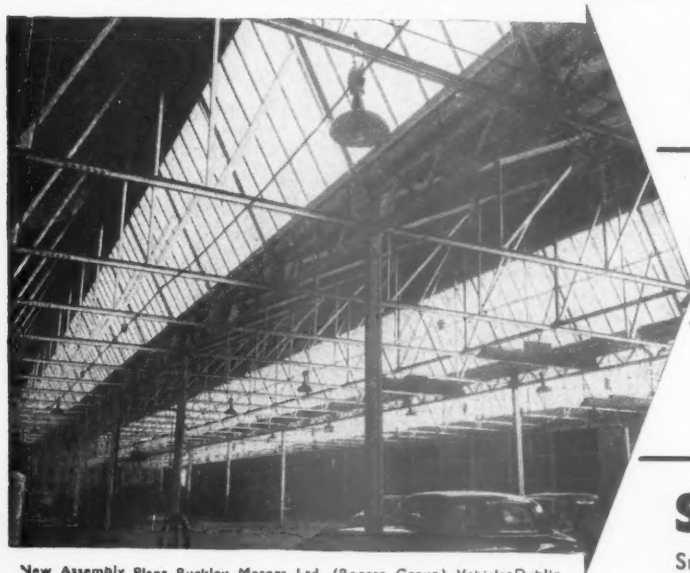
FLEXIBLE HOUSE (continued)

successively by two families, and during their stay different space arrangements will be tested. The house has a floor area of 924 sq. ft. The four plans on the right indicate some possible variations which are being tried within this area. The Council has furnished the house with furniture, linen, dishes, kitchen utensils, etc., for approximately 2,000 dollars. It includes an electric cooking range, refrigerator, automatic washing and drying machine. This is said to constitute the household equipment of a typical American family of moderate income. Since the furniture must fit into the various experimental floor plans, many of the pieces are of the multi-purpose type. The cupboards and chests of drawers for example, are simple in line and can be used singly or in groups in either the living area or the bedrooms. The living area in all cases can be converted into a bedroom at night because the settee unfolds to become a bed. All the furniture occupies the minimum possible floor area. The tables are of the "drop-leaf" type. The children's bed can be suited to the needs of one or two persons at night. In the daytime, one half of the bed can be collapsed and placed under the other. The photograph below shows part of the plumbing system, concealed in a section of the wall. In addition to the experience gained by the families, the number of paces taken in the daily housework routine are being recorded mechanically. It is hoped that the experiment will be completed by the end of this year.





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Davies from Cambridge University, deals with compaction by very dry mixes for the laboratory production of small prestressed beams. The other by R. H. H. Kirkham and A. C. Whiffen of the Road Research Laboratory on vibration of thick road slabs.

15.98 materials : applied finishes and treatments PAINTING

Painting. BS C of P 231(1952). (British Standards Institution. 10s.)

General code on painting, with sub-codes dealing with painting on wood, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, lime plaster, calcium sulphate plasters, cement and concrete, brickwork, stone. Very useful indeed.

This is an important Code and one which will be of great value for frequent reference purposes. The fundamentals of painting are excellently described and the detailed sub-codes dealing with painting on various surfaces are very good too. It fails to meet architects' full requirements in two ways: First, it does not give clear guidance as to how many coats should be applied for various conditions—a point on which guidance is needed; second, although it lists "types" of paint and gives recommendations on which type to use in various circumstances, it does not solve the problem of the architect who is faced almost weekly by paint travellers who have "the perfect material." How can one relate the Code "types" to trade names? Whether any clarification is possible in a Code of Practice is doubtful but it has been done in official documents dealing with plasters, where the various types of calcium sulphate plaster have been listed with trade names alongside. To do this with paints would be a much larger task and may be impossible. However, if something of the kind could be done it would help enormously to relate the Code to everyday practice. To take one example: Where do the "rubber" paints, which seem to be popular sales talk at the moment, fit into the Code's list of types?

18.98 construction : theory ECONOMY IN CONSTRUCTION

Research Applied to Current Building. Dex Harrison (The Builder, March 21, 28; April 4, 11: 1952).

Four articles reviewing the present economics of construction, of interest to architects and builders.

The designer is at present faced by two problems: shortage of materials and a high cost factor which may be made even larger by substitution of materials. The immediate necessity is that the architect and engineer shall be allowed a reasonable time to plan and design the work. All too often they are hustled into early contract dates which makes it difficult to consider various alternative schemes and prevents the builder from organizing his work efficiently and speedily on site. Mr. Harrison considers that despite the advancement of technique over the past ten years, its effect in practice has been trifling and too many people at all stages in building works are not keeping abreast of developments. Work is constantly being carried out by a number of research bodies but they have some difficulty in making their work known to the industry. Much published material is however available and this should be collated and regularly brought up to date when amendments and corrections are issued.

Some suggestions for an overhauling of building generally are as follows: the by-law structure should be constantly reviewed in the light of improved technique, an improvement in the supply position of steel

reinforcing rods at the expense of structural sections, a better balance of rolled steel sections, sufficient bricks of high load bearing capacity and stress graded timber.

The articles cover steel construction and the saving of steel, as well as reinforced concrete, timber and other materials and methods not requiring steel. This latter group includes aluminium, brickwork and stone as constructional materials.

19.149 construction : details DOORS

Wooden Doors Draft BS C of P 151.101. (British Standards Institution. 1951. 5s.)

45 pp. Some illustrations. Design, construction, frames, brief notes on methods of hanging.

There is little in this Code that the average architect will not already know, but it is a useful guide for students. It does not give guidance on the sizes of members, nor does it deal with the tricky points which often arise in selecting and fitting ironmongery.

19.150 construction : details DAMP WALLS

The Treatment of Damp Walls. BRS Digest No. 41. (HMSO. April, 1952. 3d.)

General notes on various internal and external treatments for damp walls.

Damp walls are a constantly recurring annoyance and it is often difficult to decide upon the most suitable treatment. This Digest very briefly reviews most of the obvious methods, and in doing so gives useful reminders on a number of points. A general point is made that, when dampness is due to rain penetration, external treatment, if possible, is usually better than internal treatment. A revealing sentence about joints in panel walling says, in relation to mastic filling of joints, "the mastic will, of course, need periodic renewal. Dense internal renderings prevent any internal evaporation and are therefore dangerous if the wall itself is very dense and prevents evaporation externally."

In discussing the insertion of dampcourses in walls which have been built without them, engineering bricks are suggested as a good method but with vertical joints left open. A good reminder is the point that if a new D.P.C. were inserted, it might be necessary to remove plaster which has been contaminated with salts drawn up from the ground.

The Digest covers tile and slate hanging, renderings, cement painting, oil bitumen and tar painting, colourless waterproofers, battening-out and lining, and various treatments for rising dampness. A few causes of local leakage such as chimneys, parapets, sills and dense renderings are also mentioned.

19.151 construction : details PILED FOUNDATIONS

Here's a steel saving scheme—Precast piles without steel. (Engineering News Record [USA]. Jan. 10, 1952. p. 44.)

18-in. sq. piles in America post-stressed by tensioned rods to allow for usual handling and driving stresses, but longitudinal reinforcement was withdrawn after piles had been driven to required set. Only steel left in pile is lower nuts, plate washers, and stirrups. Useful way of saving steel where piles are in groups and not subjected to bending moments.

22.53 sound insulation and acoustics

AUDITORIA

The Acoustics of Auditoria. (Building Digest. March, 1952.)

10 pp. general article on requirements, materials and performance based on Royal Festival Hall, Colston Hall and Manchester Free Trade Hall.

The building of the Royal Festival Hall and the re-building of two other major concert halls has stimulated general interest and specialist research into the acoustics of auditoria. This article deals, in a rather general way, with the requirements of such halls and with the way sound waves behave. The author discusses reverberation times and the use of absorbents and reflectors. A few of the commonly used proprietary absorbents are described. Finally a brief analysis is given of the acoustic treatment of the three concert halls. Photographs, but no working details, are given. A useful general article.

23.158 heating and ventilation WARM AIR

Trends in Warm Air Heating. Part I. Houses. (Architectural Record [USA]. Feb., 1952.)

Metal shortages have led to distribution of warm air for heating through hollow clay tiles, concrete pipes, clay pipes and plastic-impregnated fibre tubes. Several methods of distributing are described and illustrated. Some rely entirely on under-floor panel heating but more generally there is also a "bleeding off" of warm air into the rooms, often at points under windows.

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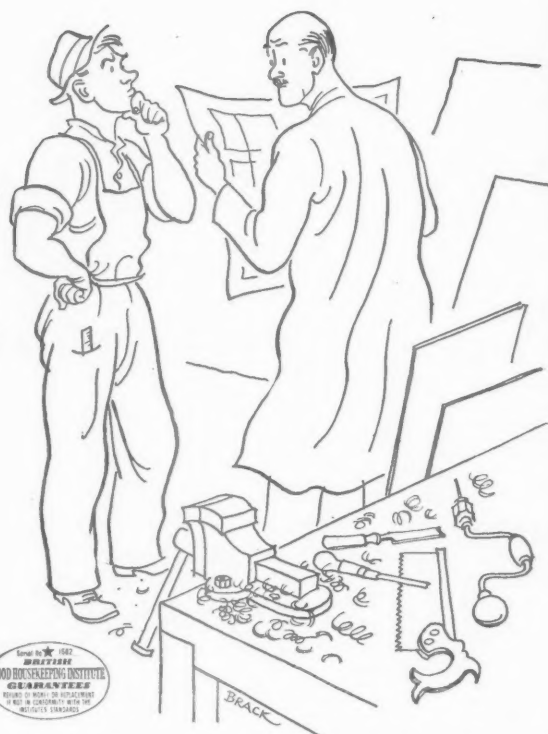
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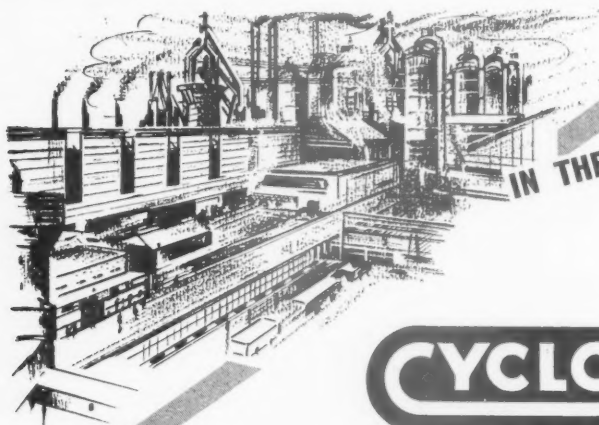
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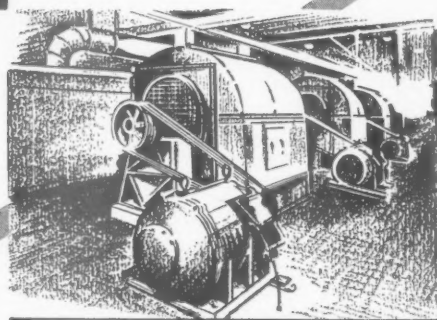
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THE INDUSTRY

From the Industry this week Brian Grant describes an electrical fitting, a house heating unit and a perspective drawing projector.

ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

If last year's Festival stimulated a demand for fittings for decorative lighting, both inside and out of doors, next year's Coronation seems likely to do the same only more so. The photograph below shows a small fitting which allows wiring to be quickly carried out with no necessity for making connections at each outlet. There are only two components: the back plate for fixing, and the lampholder part which has at the back two sharp pegs which penetrate the cable sheath and pick up current from the conductors. These fittings are designed for use with twin flat TRS cable in sizes from 3/.029 to 7/.036, and it is only necessary to string a single length of cable along the required run of lights; the individual lampholders being fixed wherever necessary by a pair of screws.

Standard finish is black Bakelite, and for external use there is a weatherproof type having a special cable sleeve and grommet. (Ashley Accessories Ltd., Ulverston, Lancs.)

SOLID FUEL APPLIANCES

The MOHLG has recently sent a circular (40/52) to all housing authorities drawing attention to a new edition of the *List of Recommended Domestic Solid Fuel Appliances*, which has been published by the Coal Utilization Council in consultation with the Ministry of Fuel and Power. This publication supersedes the lists issued in April, 1950, and supplement 3 to MOH Circulars 170/48 and 7/51. See the JOURNAL, April 17, 1952 (23.157).

To ensure the economical use of fuel the Ministry repeats the request that all housing authorities should specify for their houses only those solid fuel appliances recommended for the purpose. Local authorities should also use appliances from the list for replacement of inefficient or worn-out appliances, and should continue to inform private developers that they expect houses built under licence to comply with modern standards of domestic heating.

An "open fire without boiler" installed in conjunction with a back boiler purchased separately, may prove unsatisfactory, and if

combined space and water heating is required, an appliance should be selected from those in the category in the list. Where appliances are not self-contained the makers will supply all the components needed and installation instructions and drawings.

Advice on any solid fuel problem can be obtained from the Coal Utilisation Council (3, Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.)

WHOLE HOUSE HEATING

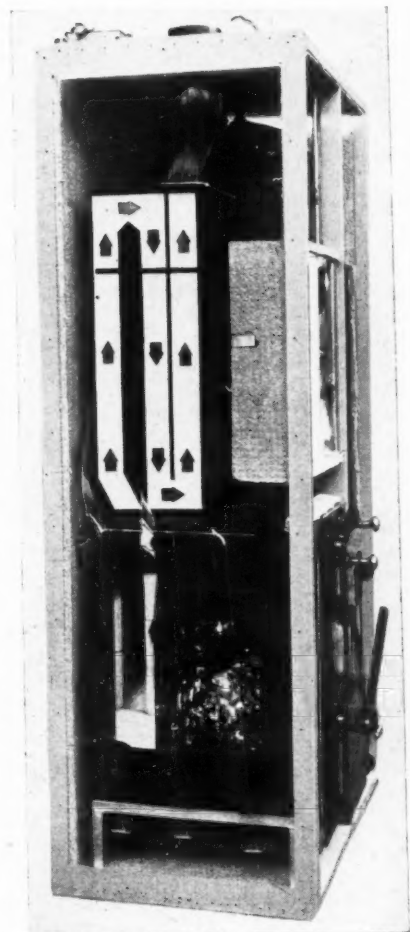
The photograph on the right shows the BIF version of Radiation's whole house heating unit. The sides having been removed and sundry panels glazed or replaced with Perspex so that it is possible to see how the warmed air circulates. The model shown is the solid fuel unit and, since it was first introduced, the efficiency has been improved so that it now varies between 65 and 80 per cent. according to output, which is now up to 35,000 B.Th.U. per hour, plus 50 gallons a day or more of hot water at 140°F. These figures are achieved using any normal domestic solid fuel.

The gas chimney furnace has a slightly larger output, 40,000 B.Th.U., but is otherwise virtually the same in principle. (Radiation Ltd., 7, Stratford Place, London, W.1.)

ALUMINIUM SPECIFICATIONS

Although there is a full series of BSS for aluminium and aluminium alloys, practically all the producing firms have their own pet names for alloys which may often be the same as those produced by others makers. The situation is not yet as bad as it is in the plastics' industry, but even before the war it was somewhat confusing, and it has not improved since. In 1940, however, Northern Aluminium produced their *Specification for Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products*; an excellent and most useful publication which lists all the alloys made by all firms and shows which are the same as which.

To keep pace with the many changes that have occurred since 1940, both in specifications and in proprietary names, continual revision has been necessary and this, the fifth edition, retains the general appearance and character of its predecessors, though the arrangement has been improved. Its 81 pages provide a complete index of British Standard and MOS Specifications for aluminium and aluminium alloy products; a list of proprietary alloy names, with the names and addresses of the suppliers; tables of all the proprietary alloys, showing the forms in which they are available and the specifications to which they conform, and finally, tables of specifications relating to each of the nine forms in which the metal is commonly supplied to manufacturers, with details of composition and mechanical properties demanded by each specification. In addition the names of the proprietary alloys that are available to meet it are given. A most enlightened piece of propaganda: to be filed at once. (Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd., Banbury, Oxon.)



Above, the solid fuel house heating unit by Radiation Ltd.

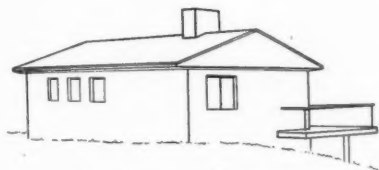
SETTING UP PERSPECTIVES

Halden & Co., a firm pretty well known as makers of drawing instruments, are now marketing the *Meredith* perspective projector: an optical device which can be used for rapidly setting up accurate perspective drawings of any kind. It is not necessary to locate vanishing points or to lay down any of the complicated construction lines used in ordinary graphical methods.

The instrument is arranged for the rapid plotting of key locations which are projected on to the drawing board by optically co-ordinating similar points on the plan and elevation. A tracing showing all the necessary details of the elevation is prepared on the same scale as that used for the plan. The tracing is placed in a transparent slide attached to a vertical frame, so that when the light is on, an image of the elevation is projected on to the picture plane. The frame is then moved from left to right across the plan, keeping an indicator parallel to the lines on the plan itself. By co-ordinating the pointer with individual features on the plan and the corresponding features on the elevation, a series of pencil marks can be made on the picture plane.

The light provides a pin point source and is fed from the ordinary mains supply through a small transformer. Although the whole device may seem somewhat complicated at first glance it is in fact quite simple to use, and should save a good deal of time, particularly on a complicated job. (J. Halden & Co. Ltd., 8, Albert Square, Manchester.)

BRIAN GRANT.



TIME FOR DRAWING: 12½ MINS.

Left, the electrical fitting which can be attached quickly to the flex. Above, an example of work carried out by the Meredith projector.

Buildings Illustrated

Private House at Hawthorn Lane, Coventry. (Pages 665-667.) Architect: Donald Gibson, C.B.E., M.A., A.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., City Architect & Planning Officer; F. B. Pooley, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., Deputy City Architect & Planning Officer; E. C. Tory, A.R.I.B.A., Chief Assistant Architect; G. Grey, A.R.I.B.A., & Hans von Kanel, Assistant Architects. General contractor: S. A. Eyden. Sub-contractors: Benfix Beams Ltd.; heating unit, Weather-foil Heating Systems Ltd.; joinery, J. Musson & Co.; roof tiling, Marley Tile Co. Ltd.

Besemer Grange Primary School, Nairn Grove, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.14, for the London County Council. (Pages 668-672.) Architects: R. H. Matthew, A.R.I.B.A. Architect to the Council, Dr. J. L. Martin, F.R.I.B.A., Deputy Architect to the Council, S. Howard, L.R.I.B.A., Schools Architect, F. G. West, A.R.I.B.A., Assistant Schools Architect, K. J. Campbell, A.R.I.B.A., Principal Assistant, A. F. Horsfall, A.R.I.B.A., Assistant Architect-in-charge, J. Cairns, Assistant General contractor: Kent & Sussex Contractors Ltd. Clerk of works: H. Delangy. General foreman: C. R. Bagley. Sub-contractors: Dampcourses and waterproofing, William Briggs & Sons Ltd.; bricks, Cement Marketing Co. Ltd.; artificial stone, Atlas Stone Co. Ltd.; structural steel, Hills (West Bromwich) Ltd.; tiles, Lewis & Co. Ltd.; roofing felt, Permanite Ltd.; partitions, Flexo Ply Industries Ltd.; glass, Pilkingtons Ltd., Leay Glazing Service Ltd.; woodblock flooring, Onsite Flooring Ltd. (Windsor floor); patent floors, John Aubenel & Partners Ltd. (cork), New Floor Installations

Ltd. (lino.); central heating, E.S.I. Ltd.; boilers and automatic stokers, Beeston Boiler Co. Ltd., Lumby's Ltd., Rimer Ltd., Prior Ltd.; electrical wiring, William Steward & Co. Ltd.; electric light fixtures, Hume Atkins Ltd., Hailwood & Ackroyd Ltd., Troughton & Young Ltd.; extract fans, General Electric Co. Ltd.; plumbing, plaster, Alan Milne Ltd.; sanitary fittings, B. Finch & Co. Ltd.; door furniture, Hills (West Bromwich) Ltd., Comyn Ching Ltd.; case-ments, Hills (West Bromwich) Ltd.; folding doors, Hill Aldam Ltd.; suspended ceilings, Merchant Trading Co. Ltd.; metalwork, General Construction Co. Ltd.; joinery, Camden Works Ltd. (flush doors); terrazzo, Marriott & Price Ltd.; textiles, Gerald Holtom; wallpapers, John Line & Sons Ltd.; furniture, Story & Co. Ltd.; school fittings, West End Equipment (Portsmouth) Ltd., Hall & Dixon Ltd., Educational Supply Association Ltd., H. C. Shepherd Ltd., Papworth Industries Ltd., Remploy Ltd., Viner & Marsh Ltd., East & Son Ltd., A. Reason Ltd., Andrew Bentley Ltd., J. Elliott & Son Ltd., Meeta Ltd., Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., E. Atkins Ltd., B. Finch & Co. Ltd.; clocks, Gent & Co. Ltd.; signs, The Lettering Centre.

Announcements

At the recent annual general meeting of the City and Borough Architects' Society, held at the headquarters of the RIBA, the following officers were re-elected:—President, Leonard C. Howitt, B.A.R.C., D.I.T.P., D.P.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I. Vice-president, C. C. Shaw, B.A.R.C., F.R.I.B.A. Hon. secretary, Johnson Blackett, F.R.I.B.A. Asst. hon. secretary, M. H. Forward, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S. Hon. treasurer, G. Kenyon, D.I.P.A.R.C., D.I.T.P., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

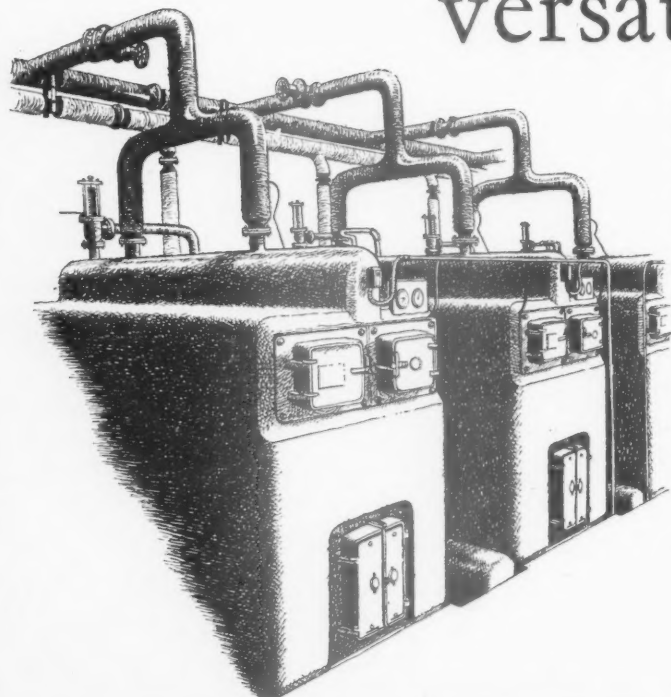
Mr. Bruce S. Fletcher and Mr. Charles D. Fletcher, formerly chairman and works director, respectively, of Fletcher Houston, from which Board both recently resigned, have secured a controlling interest in Henry Robinson & Company, Ironfounders, at Stourbridge, which has been established well over a century. The other directors are Mr. G. C. Roberts, Mr. S. A. B. Roberts, and Mr. R. T. Hall, who has been a director of the company for a number of years, will retain his seat on the Board. The company, which has specialized in castings for the building and hardware trades, is also to manufacture precision castings.

Messrs. A. H. Davis & Partner, chartered quantity surveyors, have transferred their head office from 107, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Osborne House, 28, Osborne Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2. (Tel.: Jesmond 1776.)

Messrs. Taylor & Smith and Hogg & Keay, quantity surveyors, of 3, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.2, announce the retirement of Mr. Charles H. Taylor, F.I.A.S., F.I.A.R.B., from the partnership. The practices are continuing under the same names at the same address as heretofore and under the partnership of Messrs. Geoffrey H. Smith, F.R.I.C.S., and Harold S. Shears, A.R.I.C.S. Mr. Charles H. Taylor, F.I.A.S., F.I.A.R.B., will retain his association with his personal clients and will practice on his own account and under his own name at 54, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. (Tel.: Victoria 5418.)

Mr. Leonard A. Wilkes, M.INST.R.A., previously at 19, Mount Street, W.1, and 21, Trevor Close, Hayes, Kent, has opened a practice at "Northside," North Street, Uppingham, Rutland. (Tel.: Uppingham 2108), and would be pleased to receive trade catalogues.

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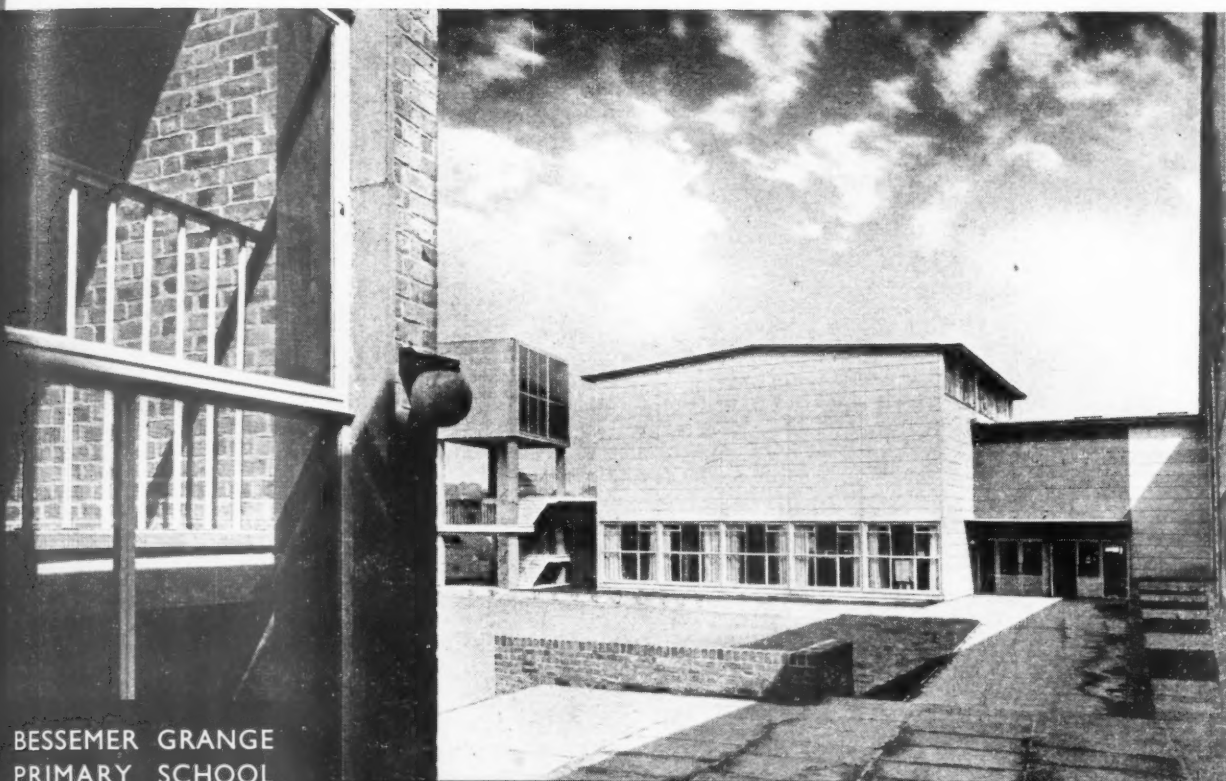
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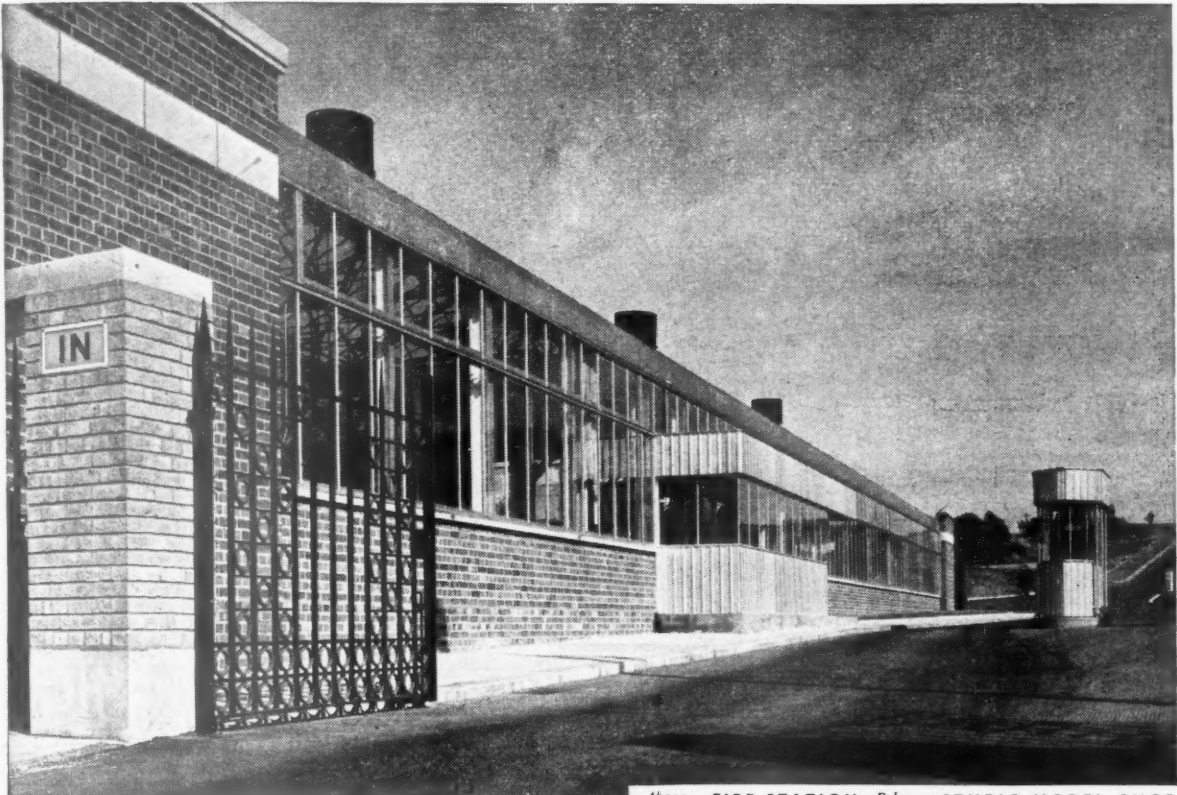
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Extensions

These photographs illustrate the versatility possible with the joint use of metal windows and patent glazing and how it has been employed by the architect with effect in the new buildings at Longbridge. Beauty goes hand in hand with utility as the buildings are both elegant and completely functional. The windows were produced by Williams and Williams, who also supplied the Aluminex Patent Glazing.



Above — FIRE STATION Below — STUDIO MODEL SHOP

Car assembly building The main window in this building — 30ft. wide by 19ft. high — is constructed from natural finish aluminium with steel mullions sheathed in aluminium. The other ranges of windows are also in aluminium mill finish.

The studio model shop The maximum light needed in this building where new models are studied and designed, is admirably provided by Aluminex Patent Glazing. Each tier of glazing consists of three top hung ventilators 44ft. long by 3ft. 7ins. high, independently operated by Teleflex gear and glazed with 3/16" broad reeded glass.

The fire station The imaginative use of Aluminex has achieved great effect here. Stretching for 150 feet, the glazing has been used to enhance the distinctive character of this building. The top three feet of the nine feet high range are manually operated by Teleflex gear so that the required degree of ventilation is easily obtained. Teleflex will open lengths of up to 200 feet from one control, and both manual and electrical control systems are available to suit particular installations.

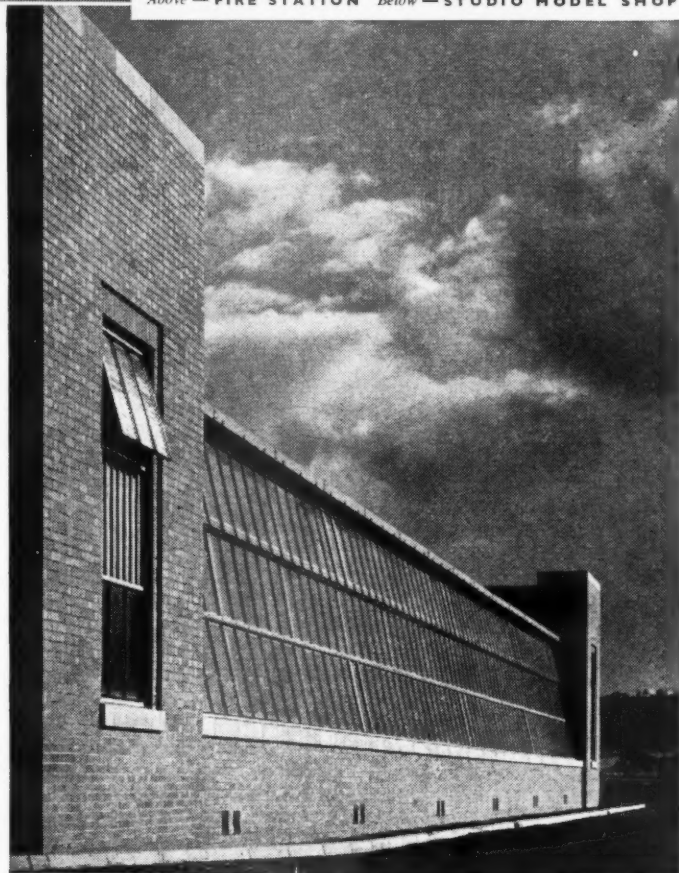
Prefabricated sheet aluminium forms the continuous eaves fascia which was also manufactured by Williams & Williams. The whole result is in keeping with the standing of Austins of England and will no doubt attract the sincerest form of flattery in many parts of the world where Austin's leadership is unquestioned.

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Mr Ernest Marples, M.P. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing, went to Olympia yesterday to see how the new People's Houses are being built there—as part of the model Home Exhibition. He particularly liked the appearance of luxury of flush doors, which will, in fact, be mass-produced cheaply—standard fittings (7ft. 6in.), the absence of awkward angles throughout the house and the large living-room.

Daily Mail

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21 February 1952

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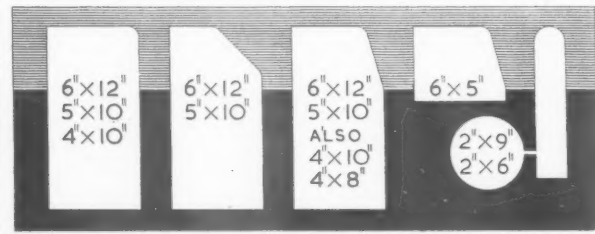
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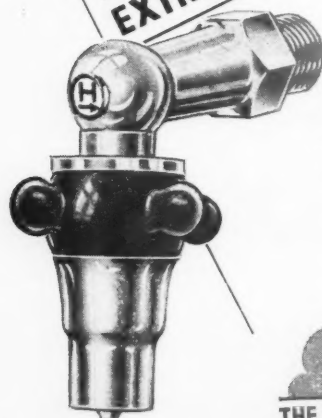
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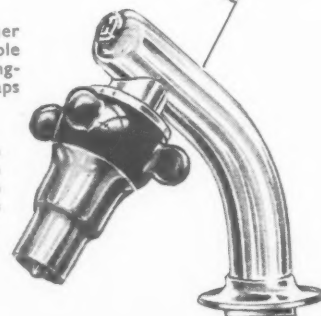
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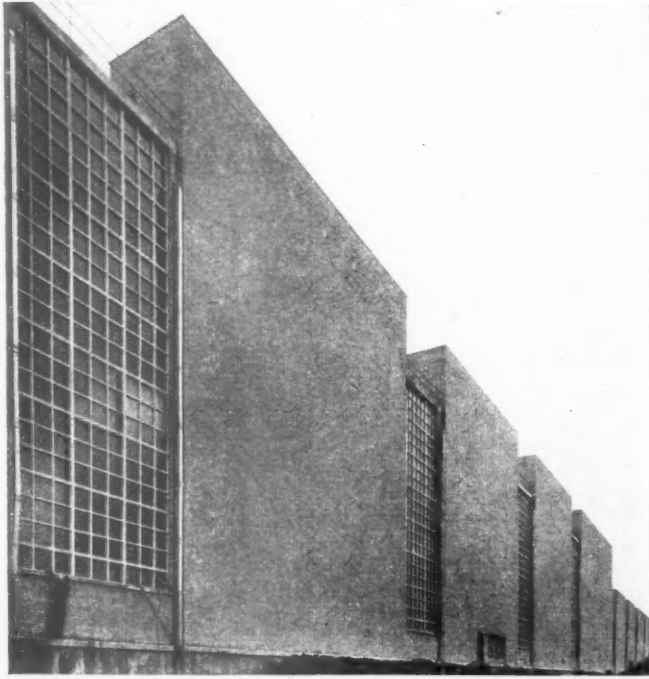


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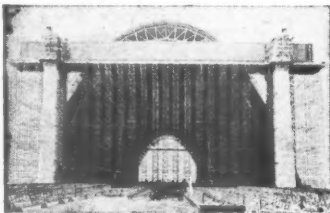
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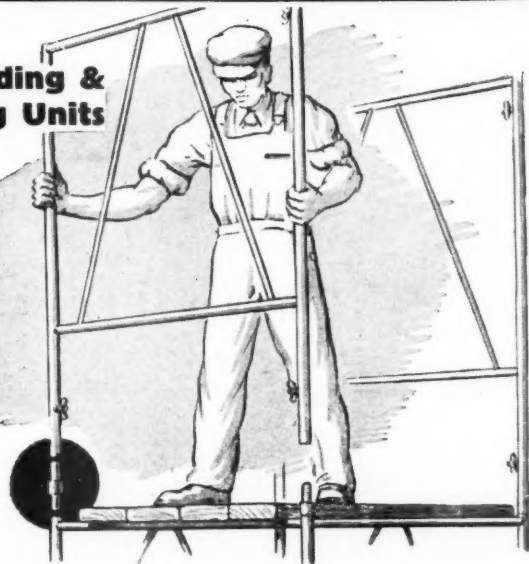
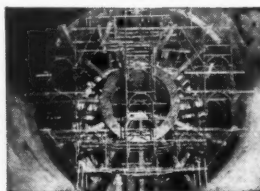
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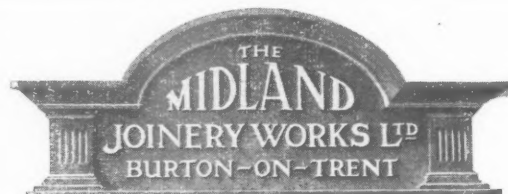
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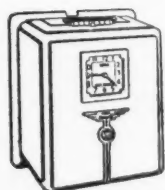
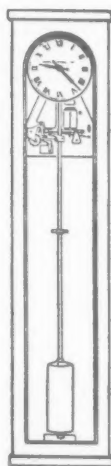
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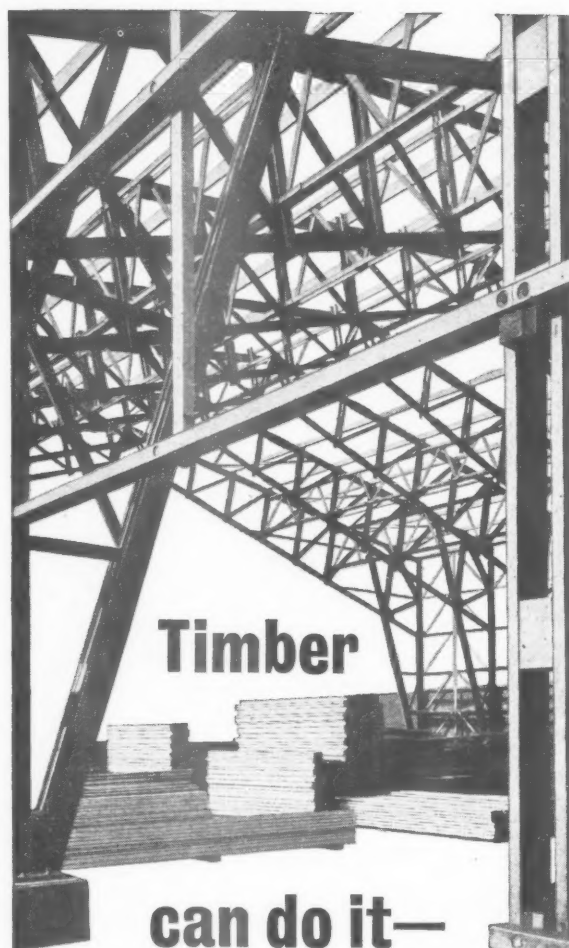
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements should be addressed to the Advt. Manager, "The Architects' Journal," 9, 11 and 13, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, and should reach there by first post on Friday morning for inclusion in the following Thursday's paper.

Replies to Box Numbers should be addressed care of "The Architects' Journal," at the address given above.

Public and Official Announcements

25s. per inch; each additional line, 2s.

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 inclusive or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she, or the employment, is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Applications are invited from Associate Members of the Institute of Heating and Ventilating Engineers for the established appointment of an ASSISTANT HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEER, in the County Architect's Department, at a salary within A.P.T., Grades VI or VII (£645-£710 and £685-£760), according to qualifications and experience.

Forms of application, together with further particulars and conditions of appointment, may be obtained from the County Architect, 15, Portland Square, Carlisle. Applications should be received by him not later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 10th June, 1952.

G. N. C. SWIFT,

Clerk of the County Council.

6865

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL invites applications for the superannuable post of ARCHITECT in charge of the Historic Records Section of the Architect's Department (Grade I, £1,002-£1,143). Skill and experience in classification, recording and restoration of buildings and objects according to period and style required. Duties include drafting material for publication.

Application forms, to be returned by 30th June, from Architect (quote EK/HR/3), County Hall, S.E.1. (549) 6882

CRAWLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION require an ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade IV (£605-£825 p.a.). Applicants should be fully qualified and have good general experience in design, construction and planning. Contributory superannuation. Application form and particulars obtainable from the Chief Architect, Broadfield, Crawley, Sussex, should be returned by the 12th June, 1952.

C. A. C. TURNER,

Chief Executive.

6872

BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Applications are invited for the appointment of an ASSISTANT HEATING ENGINEER, Grade V (£570-£620 p.a.), on the staff of the County Architect.

Applicants should be Graduate or Associate members of the Institute of Heating and Ventilating Engineers or equivalent. They must be experienced in the design of schemes for heating and hot water supply installations, capable draughtsmen and able to prepare specifications, etc.

This appointment is superannuable and subject to medical examination.

A weekly allowance of 25s. and return fare home once every two months may be paid for six months to newly appointed married officers of the Council unable to find accommodation.

Further particulars and form of application may be obtained from the County Architect, County Offices, Aylesbury, to whom applications must be delivered by 7th June, 1952. 6875

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOLTON.

Applications are invited for the following permanent appointments in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department:—

ARCHITECTURAL SECTION.

ONE ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary in accordance with Grade A.P.T. V/VI of the National Scales (£570-£710). Applicants must have passed the Final Examination of the R.I.B.A. and be Registered Architects.

ONE ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. Salary in accordance with Grade A.P.T. II of the National Scales (£470-£515). Applicants should have attended a full-time course of Architecture, and have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A. or its equivalent.

ENGINEERING SECTION.

ONE DRAUGHTSMAN. Salary in accordance with Grade Misc. IV of the National Scales (£400-£470).

The commencing salary will be fixed in each case according to the candidate's experience and qualifications.

The appointments are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Acts.

Applications, on forms to be obtained from the undersigned, together with copies of not more than two testimonials, should be forwarded to me not later than 14th June, 1952, in envelopes appropriately endorsed.

PHILIP S. RENNISON,

Town Clerk.

6885

Town Hall, Bolton.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECTS' DEPARTMENT.

ARCHITECTS required for construction programme. Housing and General Divisions. A.R.I.B.A. essential (salaries up to £696). Application forms and particulars from the Architect (quote EK/HG/3), County Hall, S.E.1. (545) 6881

WASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. ENGINEERING ASSISTANT. ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

Applications are invited for the above named posts at salaries within the A.P.T. Grades of the National Scheme of Conditions of Service, according to qualifications and experience.

The appointments will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, the National Scheme of Conditions of Service, and to the satisfactory passing of a medical examination.

Housing accommodation will be provided, if required.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, and should be returned on or before the 23rd June, 1952.

ARTHUR C. JONES,

Clerk of the Council.

Council Chambers, Washington, Co. Durham.

23rd May, 1952. 6889

BRITISH ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY.

EAST MIDLANDS DIVISION.

Applications are invited for the following posts in the Construction Department of the Division:—

2ND ASSISTANT ENGINEERS (CIVIL).

VACANCY No. 44.

Applicants should hold a degree in Civil Engineering, be Corporate Members of the Institution of Civil Engineers or possess equivalent qualifications.

They should have had experience in the design and construction of heavy foundations, river works, structures in reinforced concrete and steel, and other civil engineering works associated with the design and construction of power stations.

Experience in the preparation of specifications, bills of quantities and estimates will be an advantage.

Salary will be within Schedule C, Class AX/DX, Grade II (£809-£1,028 per annum) of the National Joint Board Agreement.

2ND ASSISTANT ENGINEERS (MECHANICAL).

VACANCY No. 45.

Applicants should hold a degree in Mechanical Engineering, be Corporate Members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, or possess equivalent qualifications.

They should be experienced in the design and construction of turbo-alternators, boilers, coal and ash handling plant, high-pressure steam and water piping and other ancillary work.

Experience in the preparation of specifications and estimates and a knowledge of thermodynamics and hydraulics will be an advantage.

Salary will be within Schedule C, Class AX/DX, Grade 2 (£809-£1,028 per annum) of the National Joint Board Agreement.

2ND ASSISTANT ENGINEERS (ELECTRICAL).

VACANCY No. 46.

Applicants should hold a degree in Electrical Engineering, be Corporate Members of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, or possess other equivalent qualifications.

They should have had experience in the design and installation of turbo-alternators, switchgear, transformers, and cables up to 33 kV, and other electrical equipment associated with modern power stations.

Experience in the preparation of specifications and estimates will be an advantage.

Salary will be within Schedule C, Class AX/DX, Grade II (£809-£1,028 per annum) of the National Joint Board Agreement.

CIVIL ENGINEERING DRAUGHTSMEN.

VACANCY No. 47.

Candidates should preferably have had experience in:—

(a) design and detail of steel frame buildings, bridge and gantries, etc., or

(b) design and detail of reinforced concrete structures, piled and slab foundations for heavy plant, culverts, cable subways, etc., or

(c) general building construction, drainage and sanitation schemes, associated with offices and administrative buildings.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DRAUGHTSMEN.

VACANCY No. 48.

Candidates should have had experience in the layout of boilers and turbines and auxiliary equipment. Condensing plant, coal and ash handling plant, H.P. and L.P. pipework installations.

ELECTRICAL DRAUGHTSMEN.

VACANCY No. 49.

Candidates should have had experience in the layout and installation of E.H.T. and L.T. switchgear, transformers, E.H.T. and L.T. cabling.

The salary for Vacancies Nos. 47, 48 and 49 will be within Grade V (£547-£651 p.a.) or Grade VI (£615-£747 p.a.) according to experience and qualifications.

The posts will be pensionable within the provisions of the Authority's Superannuation Scheme. Applications should be submitted on the official form which may be obtained from the Divisional Establishments Officer, British Electricity Authority, Barker Gate, Nottingham, stating vacancy number, and should be returned not later than 14th June, 1952.

L. F. JEFFREY,

Divisional Controller.

15th May, 1952.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

ASSISTANT ARCHITECT.

Applications are invited for the following appointment on the permanent staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor:— ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. A.P.T., Grade VI. Suitable housing accommodation will be provided.

The person appointed should hold and continue to hold the appropriate qualifications set out in the Grading of Special Classes of Officers of the National Charter, M.I.

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Applications, stating age, experience, etc., with names of two referees, to the undersigned by 14th June, 1952. Canvassing a disqualification.

H. SCHOFIELD, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.C.E.,

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Town Hall, West Bromwich.

23rd May, 1952. 6890

SCOTTISH SPECIAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

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Applications invited for this post from persons having extensive experience in the execution of house building and civil engineering works of some magnitude, on widely scattered sites. Experience desirable in the control of site agents, with (a) ability to organise site operations and work to time and progress schedules, and (b) knowledge of builders' administration, including cost control and bonus systems. The post is superannuable on a salary scale of £905-£30-£1,120. Forms of application with particulars from the Secretary, Scottish Special Housing Association Limited, 19, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, 12. Applications must be lodged within fourteen days of this advertisement. 6871

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Applications in writing quoting reference V16/250 and giving full details should reach the Manager, Ministry of Labour, Dingwall Road, Croydon, not later than 14 days after the publication of this notice. 6884

Architectural Appointments Vacant

4 lines or under, 7s. 6d.; each additional line, 2s.

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 inclusive or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she, or the employment, is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952.

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TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT required immediately. Salary £500-£600 per annum according to training and experience. About two years' office experience essential. Write, briefly stating age, experience, etc., to: Elie Mayencas, F.R.I.B.A., 13, Davis Mews, Baker Street, W.1. 6887

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT required for office in Rotherham. Housing and general practice. Housing accommodation available. Should be able to drive car. Reply giving experience, salary required and date available to Box 6883.

ARCHITECT or qualified **ASSISTANT**. Part-time services required in Liverpool area. Reply in confidence, Box V 415, Lee & Nightingale, Liverpool, 2. 6891

Architectural Appointments Wanted

ARCHITECT, 36, specialised multiple store work, seeks senior position, similar capacity, London area. Salary by arrangement. Box 455.

A.R.I.B.A., Dip.T.P., age 34, several years office experience, seeks part- or full-time position in Southampton, Bournemouth, Salisbury area. Write: Architect, 65, New Street, Salisbury. 456

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT, A.R.I.B.A., A.A.Dip. (38, single), with some knowledge of industrial and housing work, requires a responsible position. Available 1st June. Box 454.

SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Registered (42), desires permanent post where sound training, ability, and a lifetime's experience of all classes of work, particularly industrial, count for more than eligibility for pension scheme. Sketch plans to final account on own initiative, including surveys, levels, specifications, quantities, R.C. and structural steel design and detailing, and control of staff. Box 460.

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Other Appointments Vacant

4 lines or under, 7s. 6d.; each additional line, 2s.

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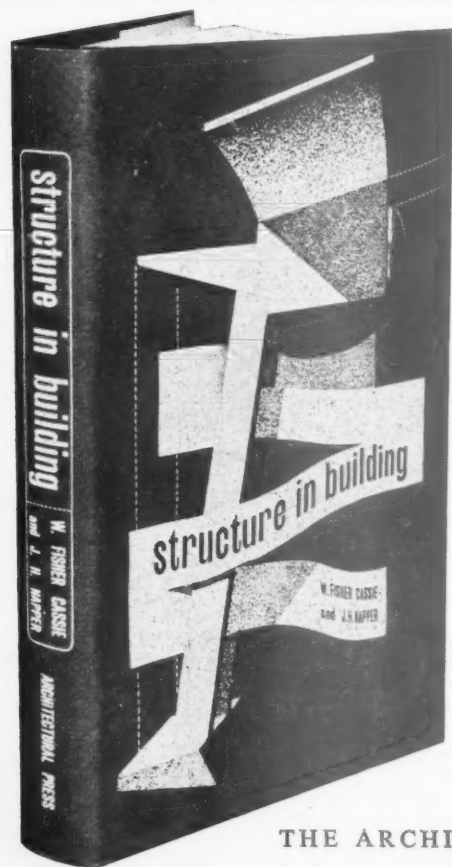
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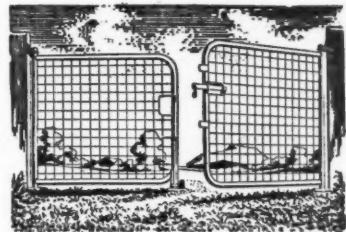
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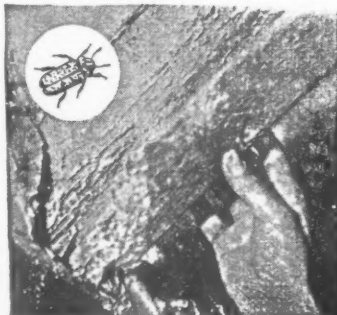
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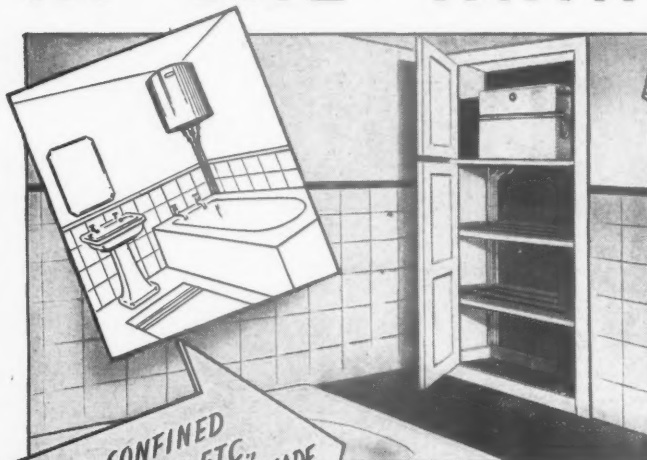
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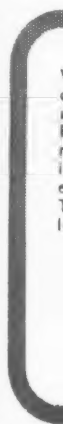
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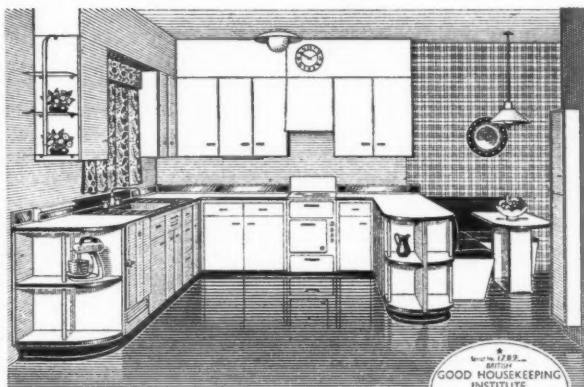
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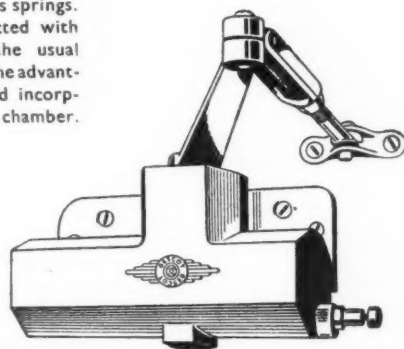
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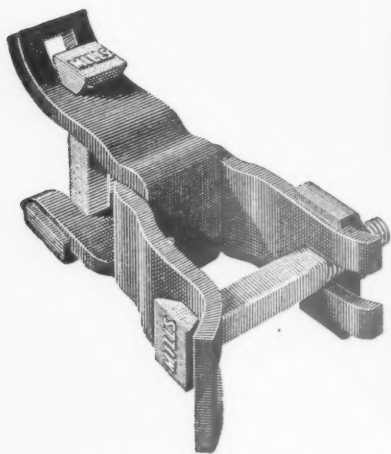
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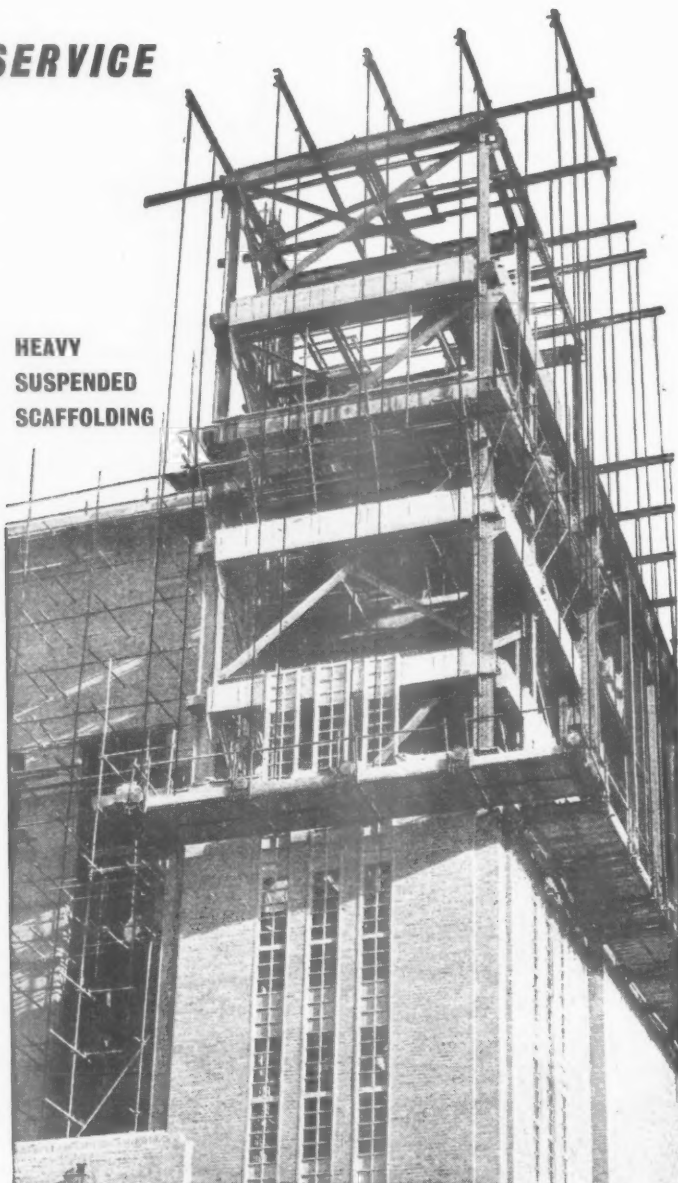
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